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A-League Round 1 Friday 5th Oct - Sunday 7th Oct 2012



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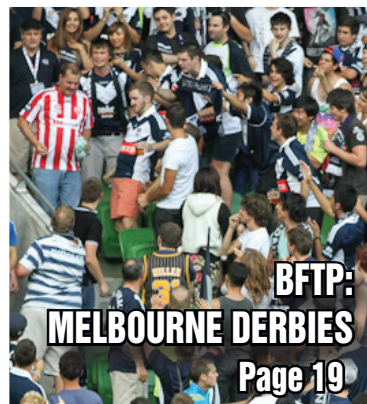
This Week's Line Up



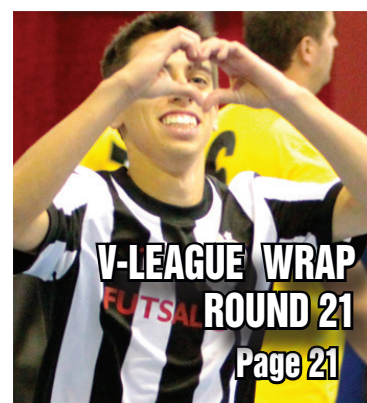
MELB VICTORY
SOUVENIR POSTER
Page 14



HAL CLUB BY CLUB
SEASON PREVIEW
Page 5



BFTP:
MELBOURNE DERBIES
Page 19



V-LEAGUE WRAP
ROUND 21
Page 21

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Osieck names Socceroos squad for Iraq

Qantas Socceroos Head Coach Holger Osieck has named a 22-player squad that will face Iraq in a 2014 FIFA World Cup Asian Qualifier in Doha, Qatar on Tuesday 16 October (Kick-off 5:15pm local, 1:15am AEDT)

Mark Milligan returns to the Qantas Socceroos squad after serving his one match suspension having received a red-card against Japan in June. Also returning to the Qantas Socceroos squad following various periods of absence are Tommy Oar and Carl Valeri.

This will be the eighth meeting between the Qantas Socceroos and Iraq at senior men's international level. The most recent meeting was in the quarter-finals of the AFC Asian Cup Qatar 2011 where the Qantas Socceroos were victorious 1-0 courtesy of a Harry Kewell goal in extra time.

The Qantas Socceroos are currently ranked 25th in the FIFA World Rankings whilst Iraq are 78th (as of 5 September 2012).

The Qantas Socceroos are currently in third position of Group B with draws against Oman (0-0) and Japan (1-1) and a loss against Jordan (1-2) in their opening matches of the final round of the 2014 FIFA World Cup Asian Qualifiers whilst Iraq are in fourth place of Group B after draws with Jordan (1-1) and Oman (1-1) and a loss to Japan (0-1).



Opa! Olympiakos will visit for the first time since 1978 and play Melbourne Victory.

The match will be broadcast Live & Exclusive on FOX SPORTS.

Head to Head	
Previous Meetings	7
Australia Wins	4
Draws	1
Iraq Wins	2

Group B Standings										
Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts		
JAPAN	4	3	1	0	11	1	10	10		
JORDAN	3	1	1	1	3	8	-5	4		
AUSTRALIA	3	0	2	1	2	3	-1	2		
IRAQ	3	0	2	1	2	3	-1	2		
OMAN	3	0	2	1	1	4	-3	2		
Top two qualify for World Cup Finals in Brazil.										

The Match	
2014 FIFA World Cup Asian Qualifier	
Iraq v Qantas Socceroos	
Tuesday 16 October 2012	
Al Arabi Stadium, Doha, Qatar	
Kick-off 5:15pm AST (1:15am AEDT)	

Socceroo Squad	
Mark BRESCIANO	64 (12)
Al Gharafa, QATAR	
Alex BROSQUE	17 (5)
Al Ain, UAE	
Tim CAHILL	59 (25)
New York Red Bulls, USA	
James HOLLAND	6 (0)
FK Austria Wien, AUSTRIA	
Brett HOLMAN	56 (8)
Aston Villa FC, ENG	
Mike JEDINAK	36 (3)
Crystal Palace FC, ENG	
Brad JONES (gk)	3 (0)
Liverpool FC, ENGLAND	
Robbie KRUSE	20 (2)
Fortuna Dusseldorf, GER	
Mitchell LANGERAK (gk)	-
Borussia Dortmund, GER	
Ryan MCGOWAN	1 (0)
Heart of Midlothian, SCOT	
Matthew MCKAY	28 (1)
Busan I'Park, KOREA REP	
Mark MILLIGAN	15 (1)
Melbourne Victory FC, AUS	
Lucas NEILL	86 (0)
Al Wasl, UAE	
Jade NORTH	39 (0)
Consadole Sapporo, JAP	
Tommy OAR	4 (0)
FC Utrecht, NETH	
Nikita RUKAVYTSYA	9 (0)
FSV Mainz 05, GER	
Adam SAROTA	3 (0)
FC Utrecht, NETH	
Mark SCHWARZER (gk)	101 (0)
Fulham FC, ENG	
Matthew SPIRANOVIC	15 (0)
Al Arabi, QATAR	
Archie THOMPSON	40 (23)
Melbourne Victory, AUS	
Carl VALERI	
U.S. Sassuolo Calcio, ITALY	48 (1)
Luke WILKSHIRE	72 (7)
Dinamo Moscow, RUSSIA	

SHORT PASSES

BERND STANGE AND BOBBY DESPOTOVSKI REUNITE

Two of the most illustrious names in Perth Glory history have been reunited as the countdown to Sunday's blockbuster season-opener against Brisbane Roar at Patersons Stadium continues.

Legendary former coach Bernd Stange and club record-goalscorer Bobby Despotovski fronted the media to discuss not only Glory's Grand Final re-match, but also the Legends game which will act as a curtain-raiser ahead of the main event.

Kicking off at 12.45pm, Stange will lead a team of Glory glitterati including Despotovski, Jamie Harnwell, Scott Miller, Shaun Murphy and Gareth Naven against a similarly star-studded ex-WA State and International side featuring the Wingell brothers, Alan MacKenzie and Paul Strudwick among others, with another former Glory coach, Gary Marocchi, at the helm.

Despotovski was quick to point out how much he is looking forward to renewing acquaintances with Glory's finest and paid a special tribute to Stange who famously led the club to their inaugural NSL Grand Final in 2000.

"Seeing Bernd again has brought all the old memories back", said Despotovski, "and I'm really looking forward to being coached again by the great man."

Vale Hammy McMeechan

By Roy Hay

THE football community is in mourning after the sudden death earlier this week of Hamilton McMeechan at the age of 71.

Universally known as Hammy he was one of this country's best players in the 1960s with seven Socceroo caps and numerous games for Victoria.

He was born in Scotland in 1941 and played football with Carlisle United and Exeter City in England before coming to Australia in the early 1960s.

A typical Scottish winger and inside-forward with superb close control, he signed with Slavia winning the Dockerty Cup in 1964. His skills brought him to the notice of the late Frank Burin who was in the process of revamping the Croatia team in 1965.

Hammy's transfer fee of £1200 (\$2400) was a Victorian record at the time. It proved to be money well spent as he helped Croatia win everything in sight in 1968 including the State League and the Dockerty Cup. The next year he went to Western Suburbs in Sydney but was back with Hakoah and later Juventus in Victoria by 1974 and even had a spell in Japan with Yomiuri and in South Australia with West Adelaide and a season with Moreland.

He was a member of the Socceroo squad which embarked on Australia's first World Cup qualifying campaign in 1965. In that weird exercise he did not play in either of the qualifiers against North Korea but turned out against Cambodia,

Hong Kong, and Malaysia twice. Those games were played after the World Cup qualifiers, in part to raise funds to meet the cost of the exercise. Since then Australia has learned to play its warm-up matches before the main event!

Earlier in 1965 he had turned out for the Socceroos and twice for Victoria against Moscow Torpedo which toured Australia that year. In 1967 he played for Australia against a Scotland team that included Alex Ferguson, now Sir Alex and manager of Manchester United. Hammy was injured in the game in Adelaide and missed the final match in Melbourne. It was while he was at Prahran Slavia in 1964 that McMeechan took part in a charity match at Olympic Park against some of the superstars of the Victorian Football League including Ron Barrassi, Kevin Murray, Gordon Collis, Ted Whitten and Des Tuddenham. Not a bunch of shrinking violets! The match had been stirred up by Jack Dyer's comments in his column in Truth after he had been to the Dockerty Cup final and claimed that 'soccer was a game for big girls'.

But when it came to the game the Slavia boys were 3-0 up at half-time and won the match 8-0. Barrassi was injured in a legitimate tackle demolishing the notion that the round-ball game was one for weaklings, while Hammy caused delight in the crowd and apoplexy in his opponent when Gordon Collis chased him towards the corner flag. The wee man backheeled the ball to a team-mate but kept run-

ning, pursued by Collis, who could not make out what had happened. The match raised a considerable sum for charity, but only temporarily overcame local prejudice against the world game.

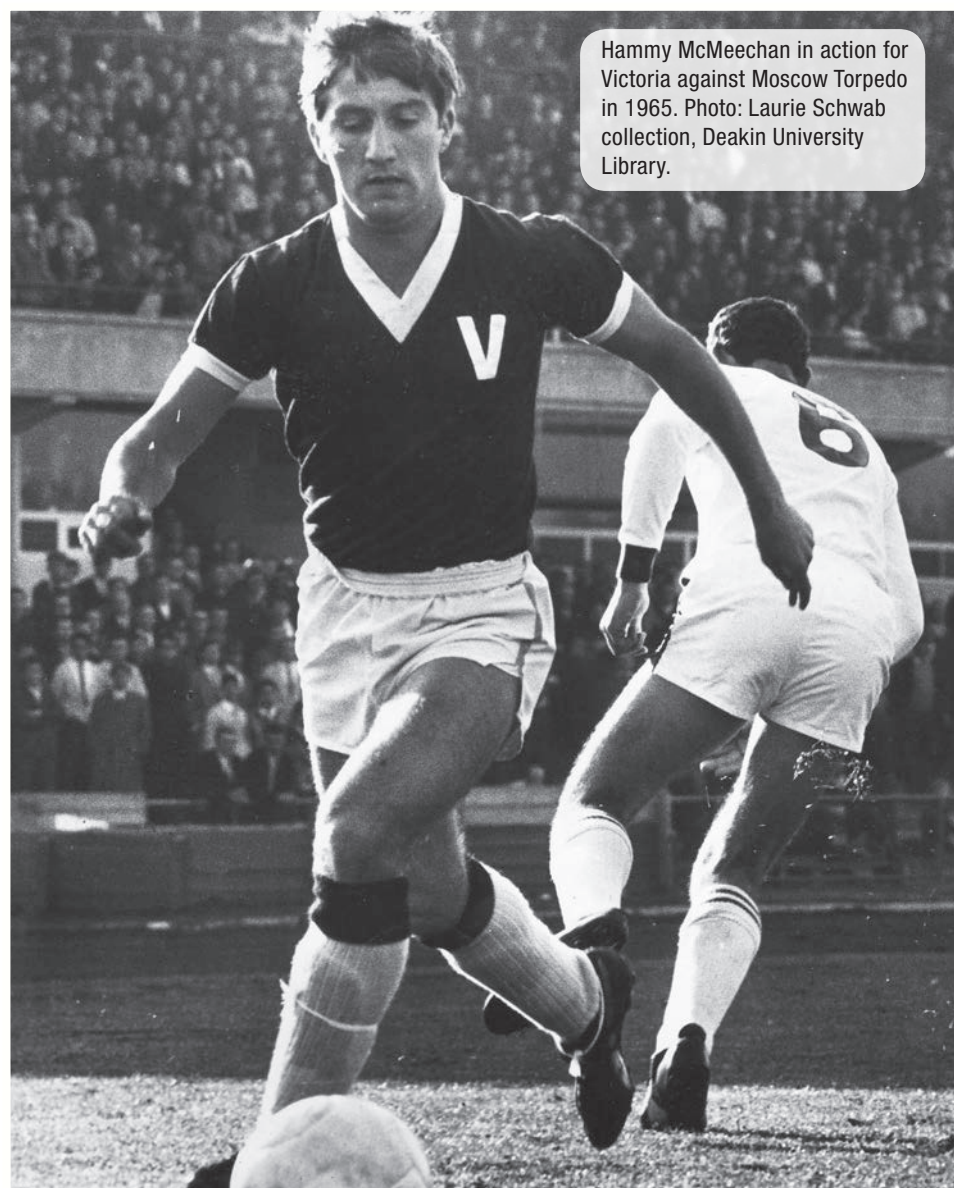
Hammy continued to play and coach at various clubs and in 1983 turned out for a Victorian veterans' team which played the curtain raiser to the centenary match between Victoria and New South Wales at Olympic Park. Both sides wore old-fashioned strips and Hammy was resplendent with his centre parting in his hair and a huge moustache. I remember coming up against him in a veteran's match in the 1990s along with the late Frankie Loughran, Ted Smith, and Nick van Egmond, senior. He still had the characteristic pigeon-toed running style and all the touches accompanied by a continuous repartee between himself and Loughran, two of the funniest men you could ever meet on the playing field.

McMeechan was playing indoor soccer until a hip operation a couple of years ago. He helped coach a girls' team and maintained his interest in all aspects of football. He regularly assisted senior citizens in a retirement village by taking them shopping and was a much-loved and respected member of his local community.

The details of Uncle Hammy's Funeral are as follows:

Date: Thursday 11th October
Time: 1.30pm (for viewing)
2pm Service

Place: Bunurong Memorial Park, 790 Frankston-Dandenong Road, Dandenong South



Hammy McMeechan in action for Victoria against Moscow Torpedo in 1965. Photo: Laurie Schwab collection, Deakin University Library.

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Roar keeper Michael Theo claims a record fourth A-League title.

In front of 50,334 fans, Brisbane Roar created football history in April by becoming the first Hyundai A-League side to successfully defend the Championship, courtesy of a come-from-behind 2-1 win over Perth Glory at Suncorp Stadium.

In a match filled with theatre and drama - reminiscent of the previous season's decider - Besart Berisha proved the difference with two goals to secure the back-to-back Championship success.

Pictures by
Adrian
Gaglion

Les
Shorrock's
Action
Packed
Picture
Page



It's all kids play for
Shane Stefanutto!



The moment Besart Berisha was judged to have been brought down and penalty is awarded deep into stoppage time.



An own goal by Ivan Franjic hands Perth Glory a surprise 1-0 lead after 51 minutes.



Besart Berisha and Massimo Muroccca enjoy the spoils of victory.



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AUFC Squad List

1.Eugene Galekovic Gk (Captain)	
2.Osama Malik	M
3.Nigel Boogaard	D
4.Jon McKain	D
5.Iain Fyfe	D
6.Cassio	D
7.Zenon Caravella	M
8.Marcelo Carrusca	M
9.Sergio Van Dijk	F
10.Dario Vidusic	M
11.Bruce Djite	F
12.Antony Golec	D
13.Teeboy Kamara	F
14.Cameron Watson	M
15.Jacob Melling	M
16.Daniel Bowles	D
17.Iain Ramsay	M
18.Fabian Barbiero	M
19.Jake Barker-Daish	M
20.Paul Izzo	Gk
21.Jeronimo Morales Neumann	F
22.Fabio Ferreira	M
23.Evan Kostopoulos	F

Ins: Jake Barker-Daish (Gold Coast United), Daniel Bowles (Gold Coast United), Marcelo Carrusca (San Martin de San Juan – Argentina), Fabio Ferreira (Dulwich Hills FC, NSW), Teeboy Kamara (Adelaide United Youth Team), Evan Kostopoulos (Adelaide United Youth Team), Jeronimo Morales Neumann (Independiente Rivadavia – Argentina)

Outs: Mark Birighitti (Newcastle Jets), Ricardo Da Silva (released), Spase Dilevski (released – Melbourne Victory), Evgeniy Levchenko (released), Daniel Mullen (Dalian Aerbin, China), Milan Susak (Tianjin Teda, China), Francisco Usucar (Tecnico Ecuador, Ecuador)

Reds ready to roll all-comers

By Luca Cetta

Aiming to put their shocking 2011-12 season behind them, Adelaide United have set about reclaiming a position inside the top six.

Last year promised so much for Rini Coolen's side after an aggressive transfer campaign, yet delivered very little. A side void of identity or attacking verve, the Reds combined the competition's shakiest defence – 44 goals conceded – with a toothless attack (26 goals). A terrible start to the season – yielding just two wins by Christmas – meant Coolen was sacked. He was replaced by former Coach John Kosmina, yet they were never seriously in Finals contention.

Adelaide experienced greater success in the Asian Champions League, qualifying for the knock-out phase after wins over Bunyodkor, Gamba Osaka and Pohang Steelers. They defeated Nagoya Grampus in the Round of 16 to again meet the Uzbeks, with the Semi Finals in sight.

Kosmina has now had a pre-season on the transfer market to find players that suit his style and system. Six players have joined the Reds, three Australian and three foreign. Of the locals, Iain Fyfe is back for his second spell, after an adventure in South Korea with Busan IPark. The experienced defender offers a solid presence at the back, while also a goal threat at the other end from set pieces. Daniel Bowles and Jake Barker-Daish joined from the now defunct Gold Coast United. The pair have represented Australia at U-20 level, the latter part of the 2011 U-20 World Cup squad. Bowles is naturally a right-back but recently against Budyonkor was deployed as a defensive midfielder,



Marcelo Carrusca arrives in SA from Argentina. Photo: Courtesy AUFC

while Barker-Daish features in midfield.

The foreign brigade is led by Argentine Marcelo Carrusca, once dubbed the 'new Diego Maradona' by the great man himself. The silky winger has been praised for his elegance and ability to beat his marker. Countryman Jeronimo Neumann is another creative player, comfortable on either flank or as a deep-lying striker. Fabio Ferreira was on the books at Chelsea, although never made a first-team appearance. The Portuguese winger most recently featured in the New South Wales Premier League. A number of Coolen-era players have departed. Evgeniy Levchenko, Spase Dilevski, Ricardo Da Silva and Francisco Usucar were not part of Kosmina's plans. Reserve goalkeeper Mark Birighitti joined Newcastle in order to chase first-team football. Reliable defender Daniel Mullen moved to Chinese



Dario Vidusic, Eugene Galekovic and Bruce Djite will be flying the flag for the South Australians. Photo: Courtesy AUFC

club Dalian Aerbin. Kosmina used the backend of last season to assess his squad and has acted according to where he wants to see the team progress in order to get back their place in the top six. Ensuring the new signing gel with his core group is integral to their chances.

Eugene Galekovic remains one of the A-League's finest shot-stoppers. Adelaide builds their side from the solid foundation granted by their captain. Fyfe and Nigel Boogaard form the central defensive pair, with John McKain another option. The right-back spot is up for grabs, with Bowles and Cameron Watson candidates. Cassio is a permanent fixture on the opposite flank ahead of Antony Golec and critical to the Reds attacking thrusts. Kosmina has hard working and energetic midfielders in Osama Malik, Fabian Barbiero, Jacob Melling

and Zenon Caravella to sit behind the creative outlets, led by Dario Vidusic. If he, plus the Argentines, Iain Ramsay and Evan Kostopoulos can fire, Adelaide have the ability to be dangerous in the attacking third.

Bruce Djite appears to have received the nod to lead the attack. He will look to better his 2010-11 Gold Coast record when he netted ten goals in 23 matches. Sergio Van Dijk is a proven scorer but has been reduced to the role of super-sub. The giant striker is unsettled at the moment but can still play a key role for the Reds, while there are doubts surrounding the fitness of youngster Teeboy Kamara. Early indications suggest Adelaide have improved. Into the Asian Champions League Quarter Finals, the Reds have also claimed wins over Melbourne Heart, Brisbane, Sydney FC and Central Coast in



John Kosmina can certainly mix it with the best. Photo: Courtesy AUFC

pre-season. While not much can be taken from friendly results, it is nonetheless a positive beginning. On paper they look to have strengthened, but the same was said last season. How the new players settle and impact the playing style will go a long way to determining their final position. A coach known to cover all the bases, Kosmina has increased midfield options to ensure a number of possible approaches. Where they may fall short is up front should Djite not fire. Following a disappointing campaign, 2012-13 is crucial for Adelaide United both on and off the pitch. They hope to return to the Finals and crave fans flocking to Hindmarsh Stadium again. While not quite the overhaul of last season, they do welcome a number of new faces who could be the difference between the top six and languishing below.



Roar Squad List

1. Michael Theo GK
2. Matt Smith
3. Shane Stefanutto
4. Matt Jurman
5. Ivan Franjic
6. Erik Paartalu
7. Besart Berisha
8. Massimo Muroccia
10. Henrique
11. Ben Halloran
13. Yuji Takahashi
14. Rocky Visconte
15. James Donachie
16. Do Dong-Hyun
17. Mitch Nichols
18. Luke Brattan
19. Jack Hingert
20. Matt Acton
21. James Meyer
22. Thomas Broich
23. Anthony Proia
24. Nick Fitzgerald
25. George Lambadaridis
26. Corey Brown

In: Do Dong-Hyun (Boin H.S.), Yuji Takahashi (Kyoto Sanga), Ben Halloran (Gold Coast United), Matt Acton (Brisbane Roar Youth), James Donachie (Brisbane Roar Youth)

Out: Mohamed Adnan (Al Arabi), Issey Nakajima-Farran (AEK Larnaca FC), Matt Mundy (Rosedale Rovers), Andrew Redmayne (Melbourne Heart), Kofi Danning (Cercle Sportif Vise)

Brisbane aims for title hat-trick

By Jarrod Ellis

It's been five months since Besart Berisha's controversial penalty secured the 2011-2012 A-League Championship title for Brisbane Roar and completed the club's quest to become the first back-to-back A-League Champions in league history.

Five months is a long time in football and as the new season kicks off the Roar are faced with a raft of new challenges in their quest for an A-League three-peat, a new manager, new signings, rejuvenate rivals and even an entirely new club.

Given those considerations the biggest hurdle to Brisbane's success this season undoubtedly remains their ability to adapt to life without Ange Postecoglou. The departure of the Roar's manager to league heavyweights Melbourne Victory has left many questioning whether it will signal the end of Brisbane as a force in the A-League, so much of their success having been attributed to the style of play implemented by their former manager.

In attempt to continue on with his vision the club has promoted from within, appointing Postecoglou's assistant Rado Vidusic to the top job. Having been at the club since its inception Vidusic was handed a conditional five-year deal last August, a strong indication of the club's faith in their new man.

Reports from those inside the club say not much has changed under Vidusic's guidance as he tries to retain the culture and

spirit that has won the past two A-League crowns.

The main difference has been an emphasis on players making more snap decisions on the field whereas player roles were tightly controlled under Postecoglou.

Preseason results have been mixed giving little indication of the greater freedom is having any positive effects but until the season proper no-one can fully judge if the change will be successful.

Importantly, Vidusic also has the backing of the Roar squad to take over the top job. Key players Thomas Broich, Matt Smith and Erik Paartalu have publicly supported him as the man to replace Postecoglou.

Continuity is important with any title defence and with ninety-percent of the squad returning from last season, Vidusic will have the right pieces in place. Along with the bulk of the squad returning Brisbane has added several youngsters to the first team squad, both promotions from within and signings from outside the club.

Following on in the tradition of promoting their own youth players such as Tommy Oar and Adam Sarota, the Roar have looked to their youth squad to address two weak areas of the first team.

With Mohammed Adnan and Andre Redmayne both departing during the offseason the squad lacked depth in both the defence and goalkeeping departments. Their departures allowed for the promotion of James Donachie and Matt Acton to the full first



Rado Vidusic takes charge after serving as assistant coach. Photo: FFA

team.

Donachie is held in particularly high regard, the young central defender having twice been named National Youth League player of the year and should provide solid cover at the back along with fellow new signing Yuji Takahashi.

In contrast to Donachie not much is known of Takahashi, only 19 years old the young Japanese defender has arrived on a season long loan deal from Japanese second division side Kyoto Sanga.

Vidusic has looked to Asia for another one of his offseason catches, signing 19-year Korean midfielder Do Dong-Hyun to a three-year deal. A U-20 Korean international Do is the youngest player to occupy a visa spot in the A-League but has reportedly been settling well and is expected



Can Thomas Broich be stopped? The Roar purr like champions when Broich is in the mood. Photo: ADRIAN GAGLIONE

to play wide on the left, allowing for Thomas Broich to play more centrally this season.

Midfield is an area that could see some significant change this season with the movement of Broich and also the arrival of star Gold Coast United winger Ben Halloran to the club.

After putting in some excellent performances for his former club Halloran is expected to make a big impact at the club and should push Henrique for a spot in the starting line-up.

Erik Paartalu will once again anchor the midfield despite speculation of an offseason departure to the Middle East, whilst Mitch Nichols also returns after a flirtation with a move to Denmark.

Massimo Muroccia looks the odd man out with Broich's expected move to the centre of the pitch and the hard-working mid-



Gloden Boot winner Besart Berisha can make defences pay a high price. Just ask Glory! Photo: ADRIAN GAGLIONE

fielder could play more of a role off the bench this season.

Up front Besart Berisha will once again lead the line and as long as the Albanian doesn't suffer any kind of second season syndrome then Brisbane should have little trouble finding the back of the net.

Despite the uncertainty over Rado Vidusic's suitability in the top job, the quality and experience of the Roar squad should see that Brisbane is once again a force to be reckoned with.

Much will rest on the team's ability to replicate or improve their play shown under Postecoglou, but should the increased freedom given to the players produce the penetrative play in the final third that has at times eluded them, then Brisbane could very well have the A-League's first dynasty on its hands.



Mariners Squad List

1. Mathew Ryan	Gk
2. Daniel Mcbreen	F
3. Joshua Rose	D
4. Pedj Bojic	D
5. Zac Anderson	D
6. Patrick Zwaanswijk	D
7. John Hutchinson	M
8. Adriano Pellegrino	M
9. Bernie Ibini	F
10. Tomas Rogic	M
11. Oliver Bozanic	M
12. Troy Hearfield	M/F
13. Brent Griffiths	D
14. Michael McGlinchey	M
15. Brad McDonald	D/M
16. Trent Sainsbury	D
17. Anthony Caceres	M
18. Nick Montgomery	M
19. Mitchell Duke	F
20. Justin Pasfield	Gk
21. Mile Sterjovski	F
22. James Oates	D
23. Adam Kwasnik	F

In: Nick Montgomery (Sheffield United), Brent Griffiths (Heidelberg United), Mile Sterjovski (Dalian Aerbin), Zac Anderson (Gold Coast United), Anthony Caceres, James Oates, Mitchell Duke (All Promoted From Mariners NYL)

Out: Alex Wilkinson (Jeonbuk Hyundai Motors Fc), Brad Porter (Retired), Stuart Musialik (Contract Expired), John Sutton (Loan Expired – Heart Of Midlothian), Sam Gallagher (Melbourne Victory)

Heart Squad List

1. Clint Bolton	Gk
2. Michael Marrone	D
4. Simon Colosimo	D
5. Helbert Da Silva	M
8. Matt Thompson	M
18. David Vrankovic	D
14. Golgol Mebrahtu	A
13. Jonathan Germano	M
15. David Williams	A
16. Aziz Behich	D
12	
17. Jason Hoffman	M
20. Andrew Redmayne	Gk
9. Dylan Macallister	A
22. Nicholas Kalmar	M
23. Mate Dugandzic	A
21. Steven Gray	D
10. Josip Tadic	A
11. Richard Garcia	M
6. Patrick Gerhardt	D
19. Ben Garuccio	M

Ins: Richard Garcia (Hull City), Dylan Macallister (Gold Coast United), Josip Tadic (Lechia GDansk), David Vrankovic (Bonnrygg White Eagles), Steven Gray (Oakleigh Cannons), Andrew Redmayne (Brisbane Roar), Patrick Gerhardt (Fk Zeljeznicar), Gol Gol Mebrahtu (Gold Coast United), Ben Garruccio (Ais)

Outs: Brendan Hamill (Seongnam Ilhwa Chunma), Rutger Worm (Fc Emmen), Kristian Sarkies (Heidelberg United), Maycon (Pahang Fc), Wayne Srhoj (Free Agent), Alex Terra (Daejeon Citizen), Kamal Ibrahim (Heidelberg United), Curtis Good (Newcastle United, Eng), Eli Babalj (Red Star Belgrade, Serbia), Adrian Zahra (Perth Glory), Kliment Taseski (Moreland Zebras), Nikola Roganovic (Green Gully), Craig Goodwin (Newcastle Jets), Sebastian Mattei

Arnie's Mariners raring to go

By Adrian Deans

The reigning premiers go into Season 8 having lost many of their favourite sons.

Matt Simon, Mustafa Amini, Rostyn Griffiths, Alex Wilkinson... all gone. And Mat Ryan? If he's still wearing a Mariners shirt in February I'll run starkers round Bluetongue.

The loss of Simon and Griffiths in midseason really cost the Mariners last campaign. They were absolutely flying, and while they managed to hang on for the Premier's Plate, went out of the finals as quickly as Brisbane and Perth could arrange it.

The main impact of the loss of Simon and Griffiths was on Mustafa Amini. In the first part of the season his vision and passing in the final third was exceptional – the Dortmund coaches watching his DVDs would have been rubbing their hands in Frohlichkeit. But Amini needs time and space to work his artistry and those commodities were suddenly lacking with the departures of Simon and Griffiths. In particular, Rostyn Griffiths had a knack of breaking up attacks by playing the ball first time into the path of a team mate. This meant the Mariners were frequently attacking with the enemy in disarray and Amini had time to pick out the runs of Rose, McGlinchey, Bojic or Bozanic, with Matt Simon or Bernie Ibini waiting to knock in their hard, low crosses. Griffiths' replacement, John Hutchinson, was an excellent ball winner but instead of one touch he usually took at least three and by the time he got the ball Amini was marked or running at a defence that was already back in shape.



Newly appointed Central Coast Mariners Captain John Hutchinson (right), with new Central Coast Mariners Vice-Captain Patrick Zwaanswijk (left). Photo: JOHN DEWBERRY

Of course, that's all in the past now. But with those crucial players gone, how exactly will the Mariners play, and who will be the fans' new heroes? Big things are expected from Tom Rogic this year. Brought up on futsal, the former Nike Chance winner showed flashes of world class brilliance last season but was too easily bumped off the ball. By all accounts he's bulked up for the new campaign and ready to play a more physical game. Another player who's been hitting the gym through winter is Bernie Ibini. He really caught the eye in the first half of last season but was eventually reduced to coming off the bench. Despite his lightning pace, he seemed to slow down dramatically with the ball at his feet, so it will be very interesting to see whether he's worked on that in the off-season.

In the last two seasons Graham Arnold has (mostly) shown superb judgment in his imports (there are one or two exceptions). Players such as Patrick Zwaanswijk, Patricio Perez, Michael McGlinchey have set the league alight – so who have we got this year? Nick Montgomery is a 30 yo Scottish midfielder from Sheffield United. Mariners fans will be hoping he can fill the hole left by Rostyn Griffiths. Speaking of whom, his younger brother Brent (ex Glory and Phoenix) has joined from Heidelberg United on a one season deal and will be fighting with Zac Anderson and Trent Sainsbury to partner Zwaanswijk in the heart of defence. Zac Anderson (ex Gold Coast) and Trent Sainsbury will have big shoes to fill in taking over from Alex Wilkinson. Both have looked the goods at times but Wilkinson's



With over 400 appearances for Sheffield United, Graham Arnold will be looking towards Nick Montgomery for midfield experience. Photo: JOHN DEWBERRY

football brain isn't acquired overnight. His contribution in the last couple of seasons was enormous and he leaves a vast gap in the middle of defence. Mile Sterjovski is a Golden Generation Soccerroo but couldn't command an automatic place in the Glory first eleven last year. The Mariners do need experience up front, so he may be the man to help Ibini hit his straps. One major advantage is the retention of coach Graham Arnold but a burning question for the fans is: what convinced Arnie to stay? He looked certain to go to Sydney FC – not least because of their strong financial backing. Maybe he saw something in the emerging Mariners that excited him for the future? (They did win the Youth league last year.) Youth players to be promoted to the senior team include Mitchell

Duke, James Oates and Adrian Caceres, all of whom have been mentioned in dispatches. I understand also that Joey Gibbs will be playing in the youth side despite trialling well with Western Sydney. (They offered him a contract later in their senior side but he chose to stay with his home town club. Definitely one for the future.) It looks tough for the Mariners this season but they've usually found a way when written off in the past. And heroes? Sydney may have Del Piero, the Jets have Heskey and the Wanderers Shinji Ono...the Mariners will always have Kwasnik.

Adrian Deans is the author of *Mariners Cleansheets* – published by Vulgar Press, distributed by Dennis Jones and Associates and available in all good book stores.

Aliosi's New Heart Starters



By Ian Syson

Maybe I have been distracted, but this A-league pre-season seems to me the first one in which Melbourne has not been the centre of football media attention and social media discussion, even in the minds of Melbourne football supporters. In previous years Melbourne Victory has taken centre-stage; and the upstart Heart has provided additional colour over the past two years.

This pre-season the two Melbourne teams have remained in the background while ADP, the Ballack bollocks, the Ono-Oh-yes! campaign and the capture of Emile Heskey have drawn most of the attention. Even Victory's Marquee signing of Marcos Flores, one of the A League's best ever performers, has occurred under the radar.

Deliberately or not, Melbourne Heart has remained in the background of the media flurry surrounding the star imports and the winter football finals series. Two years ago they played a high profile pre-season game against Everton at Etihad, coming away with a creditable 0-2 loss. This year it has been plainer fare, with difficult-to-read matches against local or scratch sides, and Adelaide and Perth at Epping Stadium. The latter game, a 0-5 loss is perhaps best forgotten.

At a guess, the low profile may have something to do with coach John Aloisi's determina-



Josip Konyit returns from Europe and could be a shining light. Photo: SYDNEY LOW



Dylan McCallister scores a hat-trick during pre-season against Port Melbourne Sharks. Photo: SYDNEY LOW



Joshua Groenewald makes the step from NYL to senior ranks. Photo: SYDNEY LOW

tion to renew and tweak the reasonably successful club culture established by foundation coach, John van 't Schip which, while producing some good results and tremendous play, also gave us a number of disappointing performances. Last season's high points of a 3-2 derby win and the inflicting of Sydney's worst ever home defeat (0-4) were offset by occasional dumb luck and an end-of-season fade-out. Making the finals earlier this year should not be allowed to hide the fact that Heart has not yet finished a season in the top half of the table.

Heart lost or jettisoned 14 players in the off season. Many of those were important contributors who will be missed. Alongside a number of mid- to late-career players, three young

guns have also left the club. It has been reported that the sale of Curtis Good (Newcastle United), Eli Babalj (Red Star Belgrade) and Brendan Hamill (Seongnam Ilhwa) "netted the club about \$1.6 million." It is to be hoped that the bank balance has not been put ahead of results on the field or club culture. Some interesting (in the Yes, Prime Minister sense) replacement signings have been made. Soccerroo Richard Garcia looks the best of these and he will be a good foil for Fred, still one of the best players in the league – if fit. The others are European journeymen, A-league players and a couple from the state leagues and it is hard to get a sense of just how well the new players will combine with the old. The assembled squad is a little sparse in its

star quality so hopefully Aloisi's first pre-season in charge of the club has instilled some team cohesion and solidity. The quality of Bolton and Colosimo will offer some stability at the back and A-League veteran Matt Thomspon should be able to provide leadership and penetration further up the park. And I desperately want David Williams to deliver on his massive potential. But for me it's "wait and see". A worrying sign is CEO, Scott Munn's recent concession reported in 442: "We track other codes as well and we know that second and third years in league, AFL and rugby – the Rebels - all their memberships declined significantly." I hope that he is not already making excuses for a poor season on or off the field. Football is not AFL or Rugby. He

is comparing start-up franchises in 'greenfield' states with a new franchise in an embedded and historically deep football culture. Moreover I hope that Heart has not been overawed by the short-term financial rewards available to a 'provider club' rather than focusing on the hard work and cost outlay involved in being a club aiming for local development and success. Given this, it's hard for me to be optimistic about Heart's chances this season. There is no doubting the players' commitment and Aloisi's desire to produce a good team. I just worry about the overall quality. I can't see Heart making the finals this season though I would love to be proved wrong.

Victory Squad List

1. Tando VELAPHI	GK
2. Matthew FOSCHINI	D
3. Adama TRAORE	D
4. Petar FRANJIC	D
5. Mark MILLIGAN	D
6. Leigh Broxham	M
7. Gui FINKLER	M
8. Jonathan BRU	M
9. Marcos FLORES	M
10. Archie THOMPSON	S
11. Marco ROJAS	M
12.	
13. Diogo FERREIRA	M
14. Billy CELESKI	M
15 Sam GALLAGHER	D
16. Theo MARKELIS	S
17. Jimmy JEGGO	M
18. Danny ALLSOPP	S
19. Isaka CERNAK	M
20 Lawrence THOMAS	GK
21. Spase DILEVSKI	D
22. Julius DAVIES	S
23. Adrian LEIJER	D

IN: Adama Traore (Gold Coast Utd)
Mark Milligan (Japan)
Gui Finkler (Brazil)
Jonathan Bru (Portugal)
Marcos Flores (China)
Sam Gallagher (Central Coast Mariners)
Theo Markelis (Italy)
Spase Dilevski (Adelaide United)
Julius Davies (Germany)

OUT: Fabio (Sydney FC)
Matthew Kemp (Retired)
Grant Brebner (Moreland Zebras/VPL)
Jean-Carlos Solorzano (Costa Rica)
Rodrigo Vargas (Green Gully / VPL)
Tom Pondeljak (St. Albans Saints)
Carlos Hernandez (India)
Ante Covic (West Sydney)
Harry Kewell (Unsigned)

Jets Squad List

1 Ben Kennedy
2 Scott Neville
3 Tiago Calvano
4 Joshua Mitchell
5 Dominik Ritter
6 Ben Kantarovski
7 James Brown
8 Ruben Zadkovich
9 Emile Heskey
10 Bernardo Ribeiro
11 Connor Chapman
12 Joshua Brillante
13 Samuel Gallaway
14 Taylor Regan
15 Craig Goodwin
16 Jobe Wheelhouse
17 James Virgili
18 Jacob Pepper
19 Michael Bridges
20 Mark Birighitti
21 Marko Jesic
22 Adam Taggart
23 Ryan Griffiths
24 Mitchell Oxborrow
25 Mitchell Cooper
30 Jack Duncan

INS
Scott Neville (Perth Glory)
Joshua Mitchell (Perth Glory)
Dominik Ritter (FC Winterthur)
Emile Heskey (Aston Villa)
Bernardo Ribeiro (Skenderbeu)
Joshua Brillante (Gold Coast)
Craig Goodwin (Heart)
Mark Birighitti (Adelaide Utd)
Adam Taggart (Perth Utd)
Mitchell Cooper (Gold Coast)
James Brown (Gold Coast)

OUTS
Ali Abbas (Sydney FC)
Jeremy Brockie (Wellington)
Jason Culina (Sydney FC)
Tarek Elrich (Wanderers)
Byun
Labinot Haliti (Wanderers)
Matthew Nash
Chris Payne
Mario Simic
Nikolai Topor-Stanley (Wanderers)

New era awaits Victory faithful



By Daniel Quinn

A-League powerhouse Melbourne Victory goes into the 2012-13 season with two-time A-League Championship Coach Ange Postecoglou at the reigns, plus plenty new recruits.

The 2011-12 season was disastrous for the two-time A-League Champions as rookie Coach Mehmet Durakovic was shown the door in January, before interim Manager Jim Magilton could only steer the Victory ship to eighth. Marquee signing and Soccerroo Harry Kewell couldn't hit his straps under Durakovic and by time Magilton took over Victory's season was pretty much over, despite Kewell's much improved performances, which included some fantastic goals.

Victory pulled off arguably one of the best signings of the off-season in April with Postecoglou signing a three year deal and the former Brisbane Roar Coach has implemented a much different philosophy than his predecessors. Postecoglou has applied a short, one-touch passing game, and fluid movement with two central false-nines and no out and out striker. Those two positions are likely to be taken by two South American recruits who will offer a very technical and exciting brand of football.

Former Adelaide United talisman Marcos Flores joins as Victory's Marquee Foreign signing on a two-year-deal adding class, quick one-touch movement and a deft touch.

27-year-old Brazilian Gui Finkler joins Flores in the other false-nine position, possessing great balance, touch and the ability to find the net.



All aboard the Victory bus! new signings Spase Dilevski, Theo Markelis (16), Sam Gallagher (15), Marcos Flores (9), Jonathan Bru (8), Gui Finkler (7), Adama Traore (3) and Mark Milligan (5). Photo: ANITA MILAS

Finkler and Flores in fact are very similar types of player as they both are tall, strong and quick, and would look to interchange throughout a game, ensuring one stays up top as the leading striker, as Archie Thompson and Marco Rojas provide the width. To add to that, this attacking foursome have all had impressive pre-seasons. Meanwhile Soccerroo Mark Milligan has bolstered the backline joining now fit Skipper Adrian Leijer and they are supported by attacking fullbacks in Matt Foschini or Spase Dilevski, signed from Adelaide down the right, and Adama Traore on the left, signing from the now defunct Goal Coast United.

Another somewhat A-League unknown midfielder in Jonathan Bru adds to the Victory midfield joining Jimmy Jeggo and Leigh Broxham. Bru a Mauritius International has been capped at youth team level for France in the U16s, U17s, U18s, U19s and U21s, and joins

Victory from Portuguese football, after a stint in Cyprus.

Many imagined Victory would miss Kewell this season, but because of his minimal impact and Victory's choice of Coach, it's unlikely they will. Flores and Finkler so far have already impacted fans and the coaches at pre-season friendlies and in training and that should continue into the season. A very interesting choice by Postecoglou was the decision to make Lawrence Thomas first-choice 'keeper ahead of Tando Velaphi.

Thomas has spent the off-season on loan at Victorian Premier League side Bentleigh Greens, but has struggled while trying to play out from the back, but Velaphi too has struggled in pre-season games. This poor form is making Victory regret letting 2011-12 Victory Medallist Ante Covic leave who was instrumental for the Victorians last season, making many game-changing saves.

Pre-season has been quite impressive for Melbourne Victory, but it has had its bumps. Victory defeated local opposition, like the likes of the Dandenong Thunder and Oakleigh Cannons and A-League side Adelaide United in Tasmania. But fell to Richmond SC and last season's A-League finalists the Perth Glory, while they also played out a 1-1 draw with the Central Coast Mariners.

Postecoglou though is happy with his pre-season preparations. "I'm pretty comfortable of where we are at and I'm sure we will improve as the season goes on, but hopefully Friday night is a good starting point for us," Postecoglou told GW at the A-League Season Launch.

But the Melbourne Heart are up first in a mouth-watering Melbourne Derby, which would be a much tougher test, which should well and truly kick-off the A-League season.

Victory Captain Leijer like all



Victory fans hope Ange Postecoglou can replicate the success he had with Roar. Photo: ANITA MILAS

involved is looking forward to Melbourne Derby in the opening round.

"Yeah it's exciting, it's exciting for players, it's exciting for fans. Having the derby round one makes it that extra bit special. We've been counting down for a long time and can't wait to get out there on Friday," Leijer said.

After the Heart, Victory travel to Postecoglou's old stomping ground Suncorp Stadium to take on the back-to-back Champions Brisbane Roar, before hosting Adelaide United to cap off three wonderful opening games.

And the big games is one reason why Postecoglou decided to join the Victory.

"That's why I am here because I want to be involved in big games, I don't think Melbourne Victory have any low profile games," Postecoglou said.

Jets set for serious business



By Shaun Dyas

It just would not be the same if the Newcastle Jets had an off season free of drama and controversy. After the debacle of sacking former manager Branko Culina on the eve of last season, Jets fans thought they had seen the worst.

How wrong they were. The off-season began with owner Nathan Tinkler and his Hunter Sports Group handing back the club's A-League licence to FFA over issues that the Jets hierarchy and the federation simply could not agree on.

The outcry from the public was huge. A mass rally was organised by concerned fans, with over 1,500 fans attending Hunter Stadium in a bid to ensure the survival of their club. With all this water now under the bridge the fans can focus on supporting their team in this 8th edition of the Hyundai A-League. The fans can expect their team to be ultra competitive this new season. Manager Gary Van Egmond has assembled a youthful and talented squad to implement his style of high-pressing possession football. Out have gone players such as Ali Abbas (Sydney FC), Jeremy Brockie (Wellington), Tarek Elrich, Nikolai Topor-Stanley, Labinot Haliti (Western Sydney Wanderers) and Byun Sung-Hwan, Matthew Nash, Chris Payne and Mario Simic (all released).

Van Egmond has gone on a concentrated recruitment drive and focused solely on players who are technically gifted and athletic. These players are Scott Neville, Josh Mitchell, Adam Taggart (Perth Glory), Josh Brillante,



The Jets will be looking to hit the heights once again after hitting some turbulence during the off-season. Photo: PETER NEVILLE

James Brown, Mitch Cooper (all Gold Coast United), Mark Birighitti (Adelaide United) and Craig Goodwin (Melbourne Heart).

To this mix of young players he has added the proven experience and quality of former Liverpool and Aston Villa striker Emile Heskey, the technically skilled Brazilian midfielder Bernardo Ribeiro and strong and disciplined Swiss defender Dominik Ritter. Big things will naturally be expected of Heskey. The former England striker arrives in Australia having scored an impressive 118 goals in the English Premier League. He is looking lean and ready to take the league by storm and could be an inspired signing for the Jets.

The real issue will be just where the big man fits into the Jets style of play. So far in all the pre-season trials the Jets have been playing an

up-tempo, almost relentless pressing game. Just how much Van Egmond expects from the former Three Lion when the opposition has the ball will be interesting to see.

He will be immense for the Jets in attack. He has made a career in bringing his teammates into the game and players like James Brown and Ryan Griffiths will love having Heskey to play off.

The Jets engine room looks as solid as ever with Captain Jobe Wheelhouse again looming as a crucial player in the centre of the park. Along with Ben Kantarovski and Jacob Pepper, they will be given the task of providing the balance in midfield to allow the front three to do their work.

At the back the Jets look solid, especially with the addition of Josh Mitchell. He has looked confident



Former England and Liverpool striker Emile Heskey brings the star factor to the Jets. Photo: PETER NEVILLE

and assured in the pre season and has slotted in perfectly alongside Brazilian defender Tiago.

The fullback positions appear to be where the Jets have really strengthened. The additions of Goodwin, Ritter and Neville have added much needed depth and quality in these areas. Goodwin has been particularly impressive with his deep runs from defence and explosive shooting power, which has already netted him some superb goals in pre season.

The position of goalkeeper will also be interesting. Last season's custodian Ben Kennedy had arguably the finest season in his A-League career. This did not stop the Jets from recruiting Birighitti from Adelaide, who comes to Newcastle with the stated aim of becoming the first choice keeper. This battle has been equally intense in the off season

and we are still no closer to knowing who Van Egmond will select for the first game of the season.

The one difference between the Jets this season and last season is depth. The Jets look to have excellent cover across the park in all positions and because of this I can see the club having an improved season. This Jets squad should be good enough to make the finals and anything less than this will almost certainly be viewed as a failure. Whether they can push further will come down to how they cope with injuries and suspension, but the Novocastrian faithful will have an exciting, vibrant and dangerous side to watch, ensuring that crowds will be high and that Hunter Stadium will remain an intimidating place for rival clubs to visit.



Glory Squad List

- 1 Daniel VUKOVIC
- 2
- 3 Bas van den BRINK
- 4 Billy MEHMET
- 5 Steve PANTELIDIS
- 6 Nick WARD
- 7 Jacob BURNS
- 8 Dean HEFFERNAN
- 9 Shane SMELTZ
- 10 Liam MILLER
- 11 Adrian ZAHRA
- 12
- 13 Travis DODD
- 14 Steven McGARRY
- 15 Brandon O'NEILL
- 16 Evan BERGER
- 17 Chris HAROLD
- 18 Jesse MAKAROUNAS
- 19 Josh RISDON
- 20 Neil YOUNG
- 21 Scott JAMIESON
- 22 Ndumba MAKECHE
- 23 Michael THWAITE

IN
Michael Thwaite (Gold Coast)
Chris Harold (Gold Coast)
Adrian Zahra (Melbourne Heart)
Nick Ward (Wellington)
Scott Jamieson (Sydney FC)
Brandon O'Neill (Perth Glory Youth)
Ndumba Makeche (Perth Glory Youth)

OUT
Josh Mitchell (Newcastle Jets)
Chris Coyne (Retired)
Adam Hughes (China)
Victor Sikora (Retired)
Scott Neville (Newcastle Jets)
Todd Howarth (free agent)
Mile Sterjovski (China - Mariners)
Andreinho (Cyprus)
Adam Taggart (Newcastle Jets)
Tommy Amphlett (Joondalup City/Football West)

Sydney FC Squad List

1. Ivan Necevski
2. Sebastian Ryall
3. Fabio Alves
4. Pascal Bosschaart
5. Nathan Sherlock
- 6.
7. Brett Emerton
8. Adam Griffiths
- 9.
10. Alessandro Del Piero
11. Dimi Petratos
12. Blake Powell
- 13.
14. Mitch Mallia
15. Terry McFlynn
16. Joel Chianese
17. Terry Antonis
18. Trent McClenahan
19. Kruno Lovrek
20. Vedran Janjetovic
21. Yairo Yau
22. Ali Abbas
23. Rhyan Grant
24. Hagi Gligor
25. Daniel Petkovski

Ins: Fabio Alves (Melbourne Victory), Nathan Sherlock (Sydney FC youth), Adam Griffiths (Hangzhou, China), Alessandro Del Piero (Juventus, Italy), Blake Powell (Sydney FC Youth), Mitch Mallia (NYL Youth), Trent McClenahan (Central Coast Mariners), Kruno Lovrek (Qingdao Jonoon, China), Vedran Janjetovic (Sydney United), Yairo Yau (San Miguelito, Panama), Ali Abbas (Newcastle Jets), Hagi Gligor (Sydney FC Youth), Daniel Petkovski (Sydney FC Youth).

Outs: Liam Reddy (Released), Jamie Coyne (Released), Michael Beauchamp (Western Sydney), Hirofumi Moriyasu (Released), Karol Kisel (Slavia Praha, Czech Republic), Bruno Cazarine (Released), Nick Carle (Bani Yau, UAE on loan), Shannon Cole (Western Sydney), Juho Makela (HJK, Finland), Mark Bridge (Western Sydney), Scott Jamieson (Perth Glory).

Perth bound for more Glory

By Juanita Shepherd

With every new season there are new thrills, excitement and highly anticipated drama. The Hyundai A-League season 2012-2013 for Perth Glory promises to be an unforgettable performance on the field; with an outstanding pre-season performance of nine wins and only one loss, Glory is ready for the A-League!

However, regardless of their excellent form and addition of the newest members to the team, Thwaite, Makeche, O'Neil and Zahara, Glory faces many challenges ahead of them for the up-coming tournament. Will budget constraints affect the team? With players being cut by Tony Sage due to a tight budget, how will the freshly assembled team fare?

The loss of Scott Neville and Andreinho will be keenly felt but there is no doubting the skills of the new team members, but what about the chemistry that bonds the team mates? Was training sessions and pre-season games enough to witness chemistry between the new players and the older Glory members to ensure a winning streak which will see them through to the finals?

Fans and Ian Ferguson alike hope that Perth Glory's travels to South Arica for a special pre-season training camp will reap the results that everyone has their fingers crossed for with the start of the A-League season.

Sponsored by Kaboko Minning



New on-loan signing from Japan Ryo Nagai gets acquainted with Josh Risdon. Photo: COURTESY PERTH GLORY FC

and Okap Ventures, the team travelled to Mbombela and were housed at the Ingwenyama Conference and Sports Resort, the same venue which was home to the Chile team during the 2010 FIFA World Cup.

Community, a big part of the Perth Glory vision was on display in South Africa when the team took part in three intensive games (July 24, 27 and 31) playing teams from the South African Premier League – the purpose of the games was to instil in the new found team a sense of commitment to the team and to each other.

Apart from playing football, the Glory squad took part in key community programs at grass-roots level, engaging with the local townships.

The team have been bonding for weeks now leading up to the

A-League season, it's safe to say (their pre-season winning streak is proof enough) that there is a certain amount of chemistry between the players and it might just be possible that Ian Ferguson knows exactly what he is doing.

Another grand final for Glory does not seem far-fetched, only time can tell if the team is indeed bound for glory!

The 2012/2013 season looks to be exciting and unpredictable for Glory, anything can happen, but will the lack of squad depth be their undoing? Was South Africa enough to cement a strong team ready to take on Roar in their first game of the A-League season?

More importantly with the addition of the new players, are energy, mobility and potential enough to compensate for the lack of squad depth?



Perth Glory finally delivered in the A-league after much early franchise promise. Perhaps it's a sign of better things to come. Photo: ADRIAN GAGLIONE

It seems as if Perth Glory are always second best; fighting hard to make it to the finals only to lose by a hairsbreadth, (or a controversial penalty) but for the 2012-1013 season Glory has made it known that they are a force to be reckoned with.

The signing of Ryo Nagai on a season long loan has raised a few eyebrows, but the Japanese striker has proved himself with strength, good feet and is technically excellent. His by-the-book manner of playing has resulted in seven goals in the last two Perth Glory friendly games, and he was involved in four of the goals which were scored.

Glory fans have now put their faith in Ian Ferguson; with a grand final to his name Glory supporters have their fingers crossed that he can pull off the same feat for this season. Ferguson has given his

fans the promising trio of Chris Harold, Jesse Makarounas and Ndumba Makeche, along with them the young members of the Glory team bring a vitality and energy which football demands; as well as the more experienced players such as Dodd, Mehmet and Smeltz who balance out the team well.

Only time will tell whether the mix of young and veteran players will result in a grand final victory; while many challenges lie ahead Perth Glory will head into the new season on the back of a positive pre-season campaign; with the hope and expectations of making it to the grand final and claiming the championship title which was so nearly there's a few months earlier!

Star factor returns to Sky Blues



By Con Stamacostas

Welcome Ladies and Gentlemen and spoiled children of the Korn. Hello again to the Eurosnobs and to the angry militant A-League purists. It's also nice to hear from the Johnny come lately Bandwagoners as well, it's been a long seven years since we've seen you last. And let's not forget the bemused undecided voters (people who don't like Soccer). Let the gushing and cringe worthy cultural cringe begin. All of our football dreams have come true Alessandro Del Piero is here.

ADP as the Twiteratti like to call him has been in Australia for only a matter of weeks but already he has changed the life of every man, woman and child that has crossed his path. ADP has already had a day named after him and if we lived in a country that was run but a charismatic colourful dictator it would have been a public holiday for all.

ADP already has left an undeniable legacy that will live on after Gina Reinhart has mined every mineral out of Australia's dusty earth. There are also unconfirmed reports that the sick are healing themselves with delight and anticipation of watching the little number 10 play balls that are way too smart for his teammates. OTROLLING AN AGENT

A few weeks before the news that ADP signed for Sydney FC there was talk that Fabio Grosso football greatest curmudgeon was going to play in the A-League. Lou Sticca was the man selling him to A League clubs. Is that it? I thought. Surely we can do better



SFC will be hoping Alessandro Del Piero will thrill with the skills and fill the stands this season. Photo: GREG SEATON

than Grosso. So I found the Super Agent on Twitter and Trolled. "Surely you can do better than Grosso MR Super Agent?" And just a few short weeks later ADP had arrived on our shores. So yes I'm saying I'm responsible for ADP's arrival for without Trolling Mr Sticca Fabio Grosso would be here and no-one would have given a fuck.

Where are you Camping? Alessandro Del Piero was only ever going to move to one City. "If you don't live in Sydney you're camping out!" Former Australian Prime Minister Paul Keating never uttered a truer word in his life. With Dwight Yorke, Juninho, Kazu Benito Carbone, and now ADP no other City in Australia could handle such a big football personality as ADP. Sacerdotal Flame? But NOT everyone is happy with

some of the shenanigans that are surrounding ADP. When the FFA announced an ADP day to launch the sale of tickets for the upcoming A-League season to the general public some opposition fans and media had a Twitter Tantrum! My best friend on Twitter the Age's Chief football correspondent Michael Lynch the Papa Smurf of the Australian football media community had this to say about ADP day: "To anoint him in some sacerdotal flame as the saviour of the game - if I may adopt the fashionable hyperbole - is daft..." I actually had to look up sacerdotal: it's an Adjective: Relating to priests or the priesthood; priestly. Is he fit? My spies at SFS training caught this conversation between the coach and ADP after the 2nd pre-season game was cancelled



Coach Ian Crook has the shades ready for some blinding performances. Photo: GREG SEATON

by Graham Arnold citing player fatigue as the reason. As a result this now leaves ADP seriously underdone. Coach: Hey ADP sorry we had to cancel two friendlies we just can't organise shit when it comes to football in this country. Graham Arnold is sneaky ADP: UFFA Coach I need to play Farken! How many times can I visit Norton Street & pretend the coffee is good? That Graham Arnold is sneaky I shoulda been playing! And the Rest Let's not forget that football is a team game. And Sydney FC has had a lot of changes in pre-season. A new coach in Ian Crook has arrived and a bunch of new players. The team was looking old slow and stale under the former boss but the new signings appear to have pace youth and quality that

has been missing. Players to look out for Fabio Alves: Sydney FC have had an aversion to Left backs so finally they bought one. The Brazilian had a mixed first season with Melbourne Victory but seeing a naturally left sided player will be a novelty for Sydney FC fans Brett Emerton: HAD IT LOST IT? Please prove me wrong EMMO your club and country needs you! Mitch Mallia: Fans got a taste of Mitch last season quick skilful and a habit of Shooting Farken! More please..... Joel Chianese: Another young pacey attacker scored some nice goals just needs more game time. Terry Antonis: Is the Hype of the team. Unfulfilled hype is worse than unfulfilled potential. Needs a big year. Ali Abbas: Another naturally left sided player this time an attacker. I like the Iraqi player's vibe. He has skill in abundance but just needs consistency. Yairo Yau: Another exciting attacking prospect plays for the Panama national team

Here is what the team could look like. 4-3-3

Ivan Necevski
Brett Emerton, Sebastian Ryall, Pascal Bosschaart. Fabio Alves

Terry Antonis, Terry McFlynn, Mitch Mallia

Kruno Lovrek, Alessandro Del Piero, Joel Chianese

Subs: Dimi Petratos, Trent McClenahan, Ali Abbas, Rhyan Grant



Phoenix Squad List

1: Mark Paston	Gk
20: Glen Moss	Gk
19: Jimmy Downey	D
18: Ben Sigmund	D
22: Andrew Durante	D
3: Tony Lochhead	D
7: Leo Bertos	D
5: Michael Boxall	D
2: Manny Muscat	M
6: Alex Smith	M
16: Louis Fenton	M
17: Vinbce Lia	M
9: Benjamin Totori	M
15: Cameron Lindsay	M
21: Dani Sanchez	M
23: Lucas Pantelis	M
9: Paul Ifill	S
10: Stein Huysegems	S
11: Jeremy Brockie	S
12: Tyler Boyd	S
14: Mirjan Pavlovic	S
24: Ricardo Clarke (injury replacement for Dani Sanchez till November 1 at this point)	

INS: Glen Moss (Gold Coast United), Michael Boxall (Vancouver Whitecaps), Benjamin Totori (Koloale FC), Stein Huysegems (Lierse), Jeremy Brockie (Newcastle Jets), Tyler Boyd (Meiville), Louis Fenton (Melbourne Knights), Ricardo Clarke (Sporting San Miguelito).

OUTS: Tony Warner (released), Brent Griffiths (Central Coast Mariners), Tim Brown (retired), Chris Greenacre (retired), Daniel Cortes (released), Nick Ward (Perth Glory), Niko Tsatalios (released).

Phoenix set to soar in 2012/13

By Joe Gallagher

One year ago a rushed Wellington Phoenix was placing the final touches on a turbulent off-season in which owner Terry Serepisos relinquished control of the club in the final week leading up to the season.

It was on that day that a consortium of new owners named Welnix pledged to solidify the organisation of a club that had – until that point – been traditionally underprepared by the beginning of the season.

But this year, going into their opening fixture with a visit from Sydney FC and Alessandro del Piero, the Phoenix and their fans are just beginning to see this promise come to fruition.

Ricki Herbert has recruited well, and in doing so has added to their youth ranks and the promotion of Kiwi talent.

And despite the loss of a few integral members of the Phoenix squad of the past, his side should be challenging to at least match their highest league position of fourth.

It is the first time Wellington will enter a season without the services of stalwart Tim Brown and fan favourite Daniel Cortes. They will also miss the tireless efforts of Chris Greenacre leading the line. Between them, the trio amassed 302 games and added 50 goals in their time at the Phoenix.

They've also lost attacking talent in Nick Ward, but Herbert has gone all out to recruit up front. New Zealand international Jeremy Brockie; scorer of eighteen goals in pre-season was



The Phoenix are always tough at home, but can they secure points on the road? Photo: PETER McDONALD

the first to sign from Newcastle Jets, and was joined by Benjamin Totori; a Solomon Islands international, and Kiwis Tyler Boyd and Louis Fenton; the first graduates from the club's youth Finishing School of Excellence.

But the signing that will have the Phoenix most excited is the arrival of Belgian Stein Huysegems. His experience at the top level in Europe represents perhaps the highest profile signing in Wellington's history. His partnership with record club goal scorer Paul Ifill may define the Phoenix's season.

No doubt the Phoenix have plenty to work on this season. Their lack of depth has been exposed in the past by injury and suspension, and

despite strides in the right direction towards the back end of last season, their away form continues to hold them back.

For the former, the alarm bells might already be ringing. Winger Lucas Pantelis appears unlikely to make an appearance this season after complications to the injury that ruled him out of Wellington's campaign last term. With midfielder Dani Sanchez sidelined for at least the first month of the season and Ifill having struggled for fitness toward the end of the pre-season, Herbert might be forced already into preparing for another season without the full services of his squad. Sanchez has already required injury cover in Panamanian Ricardo Clarke.



Ricki Herbert's men will no doubt be a competitive unit.

But Herbert has managed to strengthen his squad in key areas. The signing of Michael Boxall brings a more than capable replacement for incumbent centre-backs Ben Sigmund and Andrew Durante and might even challenge the duo for a starting berth. Mark Paston will receive competition for the goalkeeper's jersey from international team mate Glen Moss, and the likes of Clarke, Boyd, Fenton and Totori look set to place pressure on Wellington's established front third. Their discipline, too, will have been given an almighty wakeup call after an all-in brawl in a pre-season friendly threatened to sideline three first team defenders (Manny Muscat, Durante and Sigmund) for the open-

ing fixture. The trio were fortunate to be able to serve their suspensions in Wellington's tour of India, in which the Phoenix finished runners-up.

But with the exception of Sanchez and Pantelis, Herbert will have a full squad to choose from when Sydney FC visit. The promising pre-season performances of some key players – Brockie and Fenton in particular – will give him plenty of options up front, and this might be the season in which Herbert fully harnesses the combination of youth and experience in his formations. But how far can Wellington go? They are the only club to have qualified for the last three finals series and have done so – especially last season – off the back of pre-seasons in which on-field preparation have taken a back seat to the disruptions of the club's ownership.

With this season's stability and a healthy off-season under their belts, more must be expected from the Phoenix this term.

The systems put in place off the park have given Wellington the best chance they'll have at challenging for the title. This season it's up to Herbert and his squad to make the most of the stable footing they've been given.

They'll be targeting their highest ever league finish, but there's no doubting the distinct air of optimism around the Phoenix camp this season.

If they can convert that optimism into results on the park, Wellington should be a big presence at season's end.

Wanderers Squad

Kwabena Appiah-Kubi	F
(Parramatta Eagles)	
Michael Beauchamp	D
(Sydney FC)	
Mark Bridge	F
(Sydney FC)	
Reece Cairra	D
(Aston Villa)	
Shannon Cole	D
(Sydney FC)	
Ante Covic	Gk
(Melbourne Victory)	
Adam D'apuzzo	D
(APIA Leichardt)	
Tarek Elrich	D
(Newcastle Jets)	
Labinot Haliti	F
(Newcastle Jets)	
Youssef Hersi	M
(De Graafschap, Netherlands)	
Dino Kresinger	F
(Cibalia Varazdin, Croatia)	
Iacopo La Rocca	D
(Grasshoppers Zurich, Switzerland)	
Tahj Minniecon	F
(Gold Coast United)	
Aaron Mooy	M
(St Mirren, Scotland)	
Shinji Ono	M
(Shimizu S-Pulse, Japan)	
Jerome Polenz	D
(FC Union Berlin, Germany)	
Mateo Poljak	M
(Lokomotiva Zagreb, Croatia)	
Nikolai Topor-Stanley	D
(Newcastle Jets)	
Jason Trifiro	M
(South Melbourne, VIC Premier League)	
Jerrad Tyson	Gk
(Gold Coast United)	

Ins: All are ins.

OUTS: N/A

History in the making



By Alex Milic

The new club in the league has acquired the talented **Tony Popovic as its first manager**, the former Soccerroo gained some vast experience in England as a player and assistant coach at Crystal Palace, he is joined by one of the most prolific strikers in Australian football, **Ante Milić** who will assist Popovic at the club after being edged out for the managerial position at Melbourne Heart.

The two could use a counter attacking tactic with the squad available and the acquisition of two former Croatia youth internationals with added Dutch and Japanese spice, the Wanderers have put together a decent team.

Mateo Poljak joins from the Croatian first division where he spent the last four years at Dinamo Zagreb's brother club Lokomotiva where he was one of the key players in the side's impressive performance in the league last season. He is joined

by fellow former Croatia youth representative, striker Dino Kresinger who represented the 'Vatreni' at U17 and U20 levels. His most impressive displays came in the Croatian league with Medjimurje and Cibalia where he has notched up over fifty goals.

The two Croats should have no problem adjusting to life at the Wanderers with the coaching staff predominantly Croatian, communication will be no problem.

Kresinger will be partnered up front with either Mark Bridge or Albanian international Labinot Haliti, Tahj Minniecon has been given a second chance in the league following the end to former club Gold Coast United, the talented Olyroo will be hoping to prove a point this season, having been sidelined throughout most of last season.

The marquee signing is Japanese international Shinji Ono who joins the from Shimizu S-Pulse, the central midfielder made his name at Urawa Red Diamonds and with Dutch giant Feyenoord, spending four



Michael Beauchamp makes history and wears the captain's armband. Photo: ALI ERHAN

seasons in the Eredivisie and making over 100 appearances, the addition of Shinji at the club is not only a good thing for Western Sydney but for Australian football. Shinji has played at three World Cup's and not many players with his calibre taken the chance to play the good part of their careers in a developing league like the A-League. He will be vital for the club and will most likely play alongside Poljak or Dutchman Youssef Hersi.

Wanderers have a lot of depth up front and in midfield with Hersi a veteran of ten years in Dutch football, the 30 year old will bring speed and skill to the squad. Former Bolton youth players Aaron Mooy is another valuable acquisition for the club,



Japan World Cup veteran Shinji Ono brings star quality to the new franchise.

joining from the Scottish Premier League where he played two seasons with St Mirre, Mooy will have no problem adjusting to the physical Australian brand of football.

The side is captained by Michael Beauchamp, who returns to his grassroots in Sydney's West after a rich international career which has seen Beauchamp play in Denmark, Germany and the UAE. He has spent the last three seasons in the A-League firstly with Melbourne Heart and last season with Sydney FC. Beauchamp is the right choice to captain the club and his leadership will be crucial for the debut club.

A player to look out for is Jason Trifiro, the defensive midfielder



Tony Popovic joins the Wanderers from Crystal Palace. Photo: ALI ERHAN

spend numerous years in the NSW and VIC Premier League competitions, Trifiro has represented Australia at U17 level and is a local junior looking to make his name at the club and in the A-League.

It will an interesting season for the new club, it has done well to sign a squad of very talented and experienced players and should be amongst the finals without a shout of a doubt. Parramatta stadium will be the Wanderers home, the heartland of football in Australia, Western Sydney has produced a majority of Soccerroos players and a load of international stars which include Champions League winners Harry Kewell and Zeljko Kalac.

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Victory Line Up

1. Tando VELAPHI (GK)
2. Matthew FOSCHINI
3. Adama TRAOR
5. Mark MILLIGAN
6. Leigh BROXHAM
7. Gui FINKLER
8. Jonathan BRU
9. Marcos FLORES
10. Archie THOMPSON
11. Marco ROJAS
16. Theo MARKELIS
17. Jimmy JEGGO
18. Daniel ALLSOPP
20. Lawrence THOMAS (GK)
21. Spase DILEVSKI
23. Adrian LEIJER (c)

Unavailable: Nill

Melbourne Victory v Melbourne Heart

By George Stogiannou

With two new coaches and a host of new players making their debuts for new clubs, expectations are high that tonight's seventh Melbourne derby will produce an exciting action packed feast of foot-ball.

Dual A-League championship winning coach Ange Postecoglou, will unveil his new look Melbourne Victory team which is likely to feature a home grown defense seasoned with a sprinkling of International flavours in the midfield including latinos Marcos Flores and Guilherme Finkler as well as Frenchman Jonathan Bru. In attack, proven A-League striker Archie Thompson could find himself partnered by New Zealander Marco Rojas. Much expectation surrounded Victory's opening fixture last season with the arrival of Harry Kewell, but the season on a whole failed to deliver, and changes aplenty have swept through the camp since.

The Victory fans would no doubt like put last season behind them, and what better way to commence proceedings than with a derby day victory against hometown rivals, Melbourne Heart.

Rookie Hearts coach John Aloisi will also be out to impress. He too will rely on an experienced defensive line, and be able to call



The Odds

Victory 2.10
Draw 3.40
Heart 3.85

upon play-maker Fred to add his own Barazilian flavor to the mid-field. A player to watch out for in the midfield, alongside Fred is former West Ham United and Socceroo Richard Garcia making his A-League debut.

It may take a few games before Fred hits his straps as he continues to recover from an off-season groin operation. It will be interesting to see how much of an influence on the game the former Victory favourite will be. If Fred does make an impact don't expect it to be until late in the game when gaps start appearing through the midfield - injury permitting, of course..

Fri Oct 05 Etihad Stadium 7:30pm

Other new Heart signings up for a possible debut in the derby include tall striker Dylan MacAllister who'll be battling it out for the sole striker's position with ex Dynamo Zagreb's Josip Tadic. Liberian international Patrick Gerhardt is likely to be recruited into the defensive line.

It's probably fair to say the preseason changes at Victory are more radical than those at Heart. Heart has appointed former player Aloisi to build on the foundations laid by inaugural club coach John Van't Schip in the club's first two seasons.

Victory on the other hand, after two disappointing seasons with

numerous coaches tried and rejected, have opted for a complete coaching overhaul, with great expectations.

Winning the derby will kick start each team's campaign, but if the results of three of the last four Melbourne derbies are anything to go by, we could be headed for another draw, although hopefully an exciting one. However, Heart's pre-season results indicate that Aloisi's team is still taking shape, and could leave it vulnerable for Victory to take maximum advantage.

**Kiss of Death
Victory 3-1 Heart**

MELBOURNE HEART



Heart Line Up

1. Clint Bolton (GK)
2. Michael Marrone
4. Simon Colosimo
5. Fred (c)
6. Patrick Gerhardt
8. Matthew Thompson
9. Dylan Macallister
10. Josip Tadic
11. Richard Garcia
15. David Williams
16. Aziz Behich
17. Jason Hoffman
18. David Vrankovic
19. Benjamin Garuccio
20. Andrew Redmayne (GK)
21. Steven Gray
22. Nick Kalmar
23. Mate Dugandzic,

Unavailable: 13. Jonatan Germano (Fitness – 1 week) 14. Golgol Mehbratu (groin injury - 2 weeks)



Phoenix Line Up

1. Mark Paston
2. Manny Muscat
3. Tony Lochhead
5. Michael Boxall
6. Alex Smith
7. Leo Bertos
8. Paul Ifill
9. Benjamin Totori
10. Stein Huysegem
11. Jeremy Brockie
12. Tyler Boyd
15. Cameron Lindsay
16. Louis Fenton
18. Ben Sigmund
20. Glen Moss
22. Andrew Durange (captain)
28. Ricardo Clarke.

Unavailable: Mirjan Pavlovic (injured), Vince Lia (injured), Jimmy Downey (injured), Dani Sanchez (injured), Lucas Pantelis (injured).

Wellington Phoenix v Sydney FC

By Joe Gallagher

The biggest story of the A-League's off-season will finally take the field on Saturday night with Sydney FC paying a visit to Westpac Stadium to face their bogey team from last season, Wellington Phoenix.

Alessandro Del Piero, hailed as a saviour to the A-League following a season of off-field instability, looks set to make his debut after joining the Sky Blues a month ago.

He'll be the biggest name to ever walk out for an A-League game, but fans could do worse than remember that he'll be walking out with twenty-one others.

Such has been the media focus on Del Piero's signing that very little attention had been paid to just how well other teams had recruited without the star power of Emile Heskey, Shinji Ono, Marcos Flores and Del Piero.

And a Wellington side that became the first team to clean sweep an opposition side last season may consider their recruits to be just as important as Del Piero is to Sydney.

There'll be plenty to prove come kick-off. Phoenix boss Ricki Herbert will be looking to assert his side's credentials this term and his opposite number Ian Crook looks to rebuild the Sky Blues after a disappointing campaign in 2011/12. Herbert has almost a full squad to choose from, the only exception being Spanish midfielder Dani San-



The Odds

Phoenix 2.40
Draw 3.40
SFC 3.00

chez. His replacement – Ricardo Clarke – appears likely to be one of a number of Phoenix debutants.

Ex-Belgian international Stein Huysegems will start up front and joint Newcastle Jets' top scorer last season Jeremy Brockie is coming off scintillating form pre-season, having scored 18 goals during the break.

19-year old youth signing Louis Fenton has impressed Herbert in recent weeks so much that he might even keep Wellington's all time leading scorer Paul Ifill at bay.

Wellington's wealth of attacking options is mirrored by the signings

of Crook on the opposite bench and his midweek pledge to bring his own attacking style to Sydney FC this term.

Alongside Del Piero, Crook has Dimitri Petratos, Joel Chianese, Mitch Mallia and Ali Abbas at his disposal; an attack of energy and pace befitting of a matchup that produced 15 goals last season.

With the additions of Paul Reid and Adam Griffiths, and a fit again Brett Emerton, Crook appears to have plugged the gap left by Nick Carle's departure to the UAE. Their last visit to Westpac Stadium saw them bundled out of the tournament in the first week of the

playoffs courtesy of a late Paul Ifill penalty. With the star of the league in their midst, their fans will be demanding a deeper playoffs run, and a higher league finish this time round.

It needs to be one step at a time for Sydney FC and their new face. Before Del Piero can resurrect the league, he must first resurrect the Sky Blues.

Their first test in Wellington will give fans some indication as to how both assignments will progress this season.

**Kiss of Death
Phoenix 2-0 Sydney FC**



Sydney FC Line Up

1. Ivan Necevski (gk)
2. Sebastian Ryall
3. Fabio Alves
7. Brett Emerton
8. Adam Griffiths
9. Paul Reid
10. Alessandro Del Piero, 14. Mitch Mallia
15. Terry McFlynn (c)
16. Joel Chianese
17. Terry Antonis
18. Trent McClenahan
19. Kruno Lovrek
20. Vedran Janjetovic (gk)
21. Yairo Yau
22. Ali Abbas.

one to be omitted

Unavailable: 4. Pascal Bosschaart (achilles tendon, 4 weeks), 5. Nathan Sherlock (groin, 2 weeks), 11. Dimi Petratos (not selected), 12. Blake Powell (not selected), 23. Rhyan Grant (not selected), 24. Hagi Gligor (not selected), 25. Daniel Petkovski (not selected)



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Wanderers Line Up

- Ante Covic (GK)
- Shannon Cole
- Adam D'apuzzo
- Nikolai Topor-Stanley
- Michael Beauchamp
- Jerome Polenz
- Labinot Haliti
- Mateo Poljak
- Dino Kresinger
- Aaron Mooy
- Tarek Elrich
- Tahj Minniecon
- Joey Gibbs
- Kwabena Appiah-Kubi
- Reece Caira
- Youssef Hersi
- Iacopo La Rocca
- Mark Bridge
- Jerrad Tyson (GK)
- Shinji Ono

five to be omitted

Unavailable: 23. Jason Trifiro (ankle - one week)

W Sydney Wanderers v CC Mariners

Sat Oct 06 Parramatta Stadium 7:45pm

By Alex Milic

The new club will come up against last season's minor premiers who will be looking to rebuild on its success under Graham Arnold while the Wanderers will be on show for the whole country which is eager to see the new club.

With the likes of Shinji Ono a veteran of three World Cup campaigns and the Croatian duo of Meteo Poljak and Dino Kresinger led by Australian Croats Tony Popovic and Ante Milicic, It will be interesting to see how they play.

Parramatta Stadium should boast a healthy crowd, the heartland of the sport in the country has been itching to have a club representing the West and it finally has one. It will be interesting to see who will partner Kresinger up front, with the likes of Albanian international Labinot Haliti and former Sydney FC forward Mark Bridge fighting for a starters spot, but don't count out Tahj Minnecon, the Olyroo has shown glimpses of his talent at gold Coast last season but was limited due to injury. Tahj will be the squads X factor.

With depth in the midfield and up front, the backline looks a little shaky, however captain and a man of international experience Michael Beauchamp will provide some stability.

Tomas Rogic is the key for the Mariners, the talented youngster attracted attention of European



Wanderers Face Baptism Of Fire

clubs during the offseason but has decided to ply his trade in the A-League for another season. Rogic can play in the middle and up front and will be the player to watch out for in this match, if he is having a good day then the Wanderers will have their hands full, Shannon Cole and Beauchamp will have to be on song to stop the dangerous Mariners attack.

All cameras will be on Wanderers marquee Shinji Ono, the former Feyenoord midfielder and Japan mainstay for over a decade, will be out to prove the club made the right decision by opting for an Asian player ahead of interest from

Europe and South America. Ono will be vital for the club and could well and truly be the difference in this match.

Meanwhile, in other news Western Sydney Wanderers FC have confirmed the signing of Joey Gibbs from the Marconi club that compete in the NSW Premier League. Gibbs has joined the Wanderers on a one year deal that will see him be part of the Hyundai A-League squad in their inaugural year in the competition.

The 20-year-old had his first training session with the club today and will be looking to recapture that form that saw him score four goals

in the Wanderers first pre-season match against Nepean FC back in July.

Gibbs becomes the Wanderers 21st signing and after making one appearance in the Hyundai A-League in season 2009-10, he will be pushing for a starting spot in the coming weeks.

Coach Tony Popovic was impressed with Gibbs' initial trial and is delighted to now have him as part of the squad.

The Odds

West Syd 4.33
Draw 3.50
Mariners 1.85

Kiss of Death

West Syd 1-1 Mariners



Mariners Line Up

- Mathew Ryan (gk)
- Daniel McBreen
- Joshua Rose
- Pedj Bojic
- Zac Anderson
- Patrick Zwaanswijk
- John Hutchinson (c)
- Adriano Pellegrino
- Bernie Ibini
- Tomas Rogic
- Oliver Bozanic
- Troy Hearfield
- Brent Griffiths
- Michael McGlinchey
- Brad McDonald
- Trent Sainsbury
- Nick Montgomery
- Mitchell Duke
- Justin Pasfield (gk)
- Mile Sterjovski

Five to be omitted

Unavailable: 17. Anthony Caceres (Elbow – 2 weeks), 22. James Oates (Ankle – 2 months), Adam Kwasnik (Illness – 1 week)



Jets Line Up

- Ben Kennedy
- Scott Neville
- Tiago Calvano
- Josh Mitchell
- Dominik Ritter
- Ben Kantarovski
- Ruben Zadkovich
- Emile Heskey
- Bernado Ribeiro
- Connor Chapman
- Craig Goodwin
- Jobe Wheelhouse (c)
- James Virgili
- Michael Bridges
- Mark Birighitti
- Marko Jesic
- Adam Taggart
- Ryan Griffiths
- Mitch Cooper

Newcastle Jets v Adelaide United

By Shaun Dyas

The Newcastle Jets host Adelaide United this Sunday in the opening round of the Hyundai A-League at Hunter Stadium.

After a long off season the Newcastle crowd will be eager to welcome their star signing Emile Heskey to Newcastle with a victory against an Adelaide side that have also strengthened over the winter.

Adelaide has completely altered their style of play from last season. Gone is the cautious, counter-attacking style that Manager John Kosmina installed as he took over from the sacked Rini Coolen.

With a full off-season to improve his side, Kosmina has decided to totally alter the Reds style of play. They now play a high-pressing, short passing style of football that has been recently described as the best in the club's history.

Against Bunyodkor at home in the Asian Champions League it was super-effective and the Reds were unlucky not to go to Tashkent with a healthy advantage.

The Jets have implemented a similar style of play so it should be exciting to see how it plays out on Sunday afternoon.

The home side will be looking to their new signings to add some pace and class to their attack as they look to improve on their scoring record of last season. Heskey is no certainty to start this match so the home side may need

Sun Oct 07 Hunter Stadium 3:00pm



The Odds

Jets 2.40
Draw 3.40
AUGC 3.40

Jets and Adelaide ready to square off

Head-to-Head

Played: 20
Wins: Perth 8, Victory 7, Draws: 5

an inspired performance from Ryan Griffiths and young gun James Virgili to create opportunities for the central striker, who could possibly be Michael Bridges.

The Jets look strong in wide areas and they will be assisted in this match by Heart recruit Craig Goodwin and former Glory man Scott Neville from the fullback positions.

Adelaide will have to be vigilant in wide areas and will look to the class and experience of new Australian Cassio to try and blunt the impact of the home side down the flanks. Their threat is likely to come from central areas. Striker Bruce Djite

has looked good in pre season and providing he gets through the match away to Bunyodkor in Tashkent will be looking to hurt the Jets on the scoreboard.

He will be supported by the creative abilities of Zenon Caravella and Dario Vidosic just behind. It will be interesting to see just what roles Adelaide's new Argentine Imports play on Sunday afternoon.

Jeronimo Morales Neumann and Marcelo Carrusca both come with big expectations and the people of the Hunter will be hoping that they do not show their best on Sunday. This match promises to bring excitement and entertainment for

what is sure to be a large home crowd for the first game of the season. The Jets will be looking to get their season off to a flyer and will feel that an Adelaide side faced with the rigours of a long and taxing trip back from Uzbekistan will be ripe for the picking.

The Jets should be able to kick start their season with a win but need to be wary of an Adelaide side that will finish far higher than they did last year in the A-League.

Kiss of Death

Jets 2-1 AUFC



Adelaide Utd Line Up

- Eugene GALEKOVIC (gk) (c)
- Osama MALIK
- Nigel BOOGAARD
- Jon MCKAIN
- CASSIO
- Sergio VAN DIJK
- Bruce DJITE
- Dario VIDOSIC
- Antony GOLEC
- Cameron WATSON
- Daniel BOWLES
- Iain RAMSAY
- Fabian BARBIERO
- Jake BARKER-DAISH
- Jeronimo NEUMANN
- Iain FYFE
- Evan KOSTOPOULOS
- Paul IZZO (gk)

three to be omitted

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Glory Line Up

1. Danny Vukovic (gk)
3. Bas van den Brink
4. Billy Mehmet
5. Steve Pantelidis
6. Nick Ward
7. Jacob Burns (c)
8. Dean Heffernan
9. Shane Smeltz
10. Liam Miller
11. Adrian Zahra
12. Ryo Nagai
13. Travis Dodd
14. Steven McGarry
15. Brandon O'Neill
18. Jesse Makarounas
19. Josh Risdon
20. Neil Young
21. Scott Jamieson
22. Ndumba Makeche
23. Michael Thwaite

Unavailable: 16. Evan Berger (hamstring – 8 weeks), 17. Chris Harold

By Juanita Shepherd

Fans have been waiting with religious like fervour for the start of the Hyundai A-League football season and there's no better way to kick start the season than a match between Perth Glory and Brisbane Roar.

Kick off begins at 2:00 pm local time on October 7 at Patterson stadium, Subiaco Perth, and promises all the thrills and excitement that football offers, not to mention a sense of steely determination from the Glory team, following their loss to Roar in April at the 2012 A-League Grand Final.

Despite their defeat, Glory is unwavering in their efforts to win against Roar; for the first time in A-League history the fixtures show that Perth Glory gets 14 home games, which Ian Ferguson has claimed to be 'great.' Everyone knows that playing on your home turf gives you a slight advantage (a factor contributing to the Roar's win at Suncorp Stadium, Brisbane in April of this year) and Glory is no exception.

Ian Ferguson has added young blood to the team with the promotion of Ndumba Makeche and Brandon O'Neil, from the youth squad to the A-League. O'Neil the 18 year old defensive midfielder and Makeche, a striker from Zambia have both signed two year contracts with Glory.

Joining the youth who have graduated to the A-League is 21 year old Adrian Zahara who joined Glory on April 27; Harold is another fresh faced but highly skilled and experienced footballer who has seen action in Iraq at the Asian Qualifier cup as well as representing the Australian Young Olympic Football Team.

The veterans are back and ready for battle with Billy 'the log' Mehmet,

Perth Glory v Brisbane Roar

Sun Oct 07 Patersons Stadium 5:00pm

Grand Final Replay: Glory's Chance For Revenge



The Odds

Glory 2.70
Draw 3.40
Roar 2.65

Travis Dodd and all-time A-League scorer Smeltz with 66 goals to his name, is ready to add more numbers to his impressive list make up the strikers poised for war!

Regardless of the strength of the Glory strikers, Roar is far from weak. Defending against the might of the Glory strikers is Jack Hingert known for his prowess of the field; Hingert is joined by a stellar team of defenders, Franjic, Jurman, Smith, Stefanutto, Takahashi and Donachie.

Rising to meet the defenders is Glory's own defensive side with Ridsen, Pantelidis, Van Den, Thwaite, Berger, Jamieson and Heffernan; even though their strength and skill is impressive they can't afford to slack off in their attempt to stop Roar forwards getting through their defences. Roar strikers, Henrique, Proia, Berisha, and Do are

more than capable but will they be able to penetrate Glory's defenders? The final positions which will determine who the winners will be are the midfielders. Both Glory and Roar have a strong team; a good mix of youth, agility and freshness as well as older more experienced players who are highly skilled with the ability to perform well under pressure.

Halloran, Meyer, Nichols, Paaartalu, Visconte, Murdocca, Brattan, and Broich the Brisbane Roar midfielders will rise to the occasion and meet McGarry, Ward, Makarounas, Burns and Miller the Perth Glory Midfielders will give back as good as they get. While the strikers, defenders and midfielders are all crucial for a good game, ultimately it's the skill of the goalie which will make or break a team; Brisbane Roar have an advan-

tage with their goalie Michael Theo, 3 time winner of the goalkeeper of the year award and the first goalie to win 4 Hyundai A League Championships. Despite his skill and experience Perth Glory goal keeper Danny Vukovic is just as commanding with a perfect 2012 pre-season which his 10 clean sheets indicate. Neil Young is the perfect partner for Vukovic and both are formidable goal keepers; while Brisbane Roar Matt Acton is confident and young he still has a lot to learn as a goal keeper from Theo.

There's no saying what will happen when two formidable teams clash at Patterson Stadium; both are equally strong. One thing's for sure it's a game you wouldn't want to miss!

**Kiss of Death
Glory 2-2 Roar**



Roar Line Up

1. Michael Theo (GK)
2. Matt Smith
3. Shane Stefanutto
4. Matt Jurman
5. Ivan Franjic
6. Erik Paartalu
7. Besart Berisha
8. Massimo Murdocca
10. Henrique
11. Ben Halloran
13. Yuji Takahashi
16. Do Dong-Hyun
17. Mitch Nichols
18. Luke Brattan
19. Jack Hingert
20. Matt Acton (GK)
22. Thomas Broich
24. Nick Fitzgerald

Unavailable: James Meyer (groin – two weeks)

A-League Returns

A-League Rewind



By Robert Di Fabio

Season eight of the Hyundai A-League has finally arrived. The closed season has come, seemingly dwelled on, and to the delight of the football public, elapsed. Following a great deal of anticipation, Australia's premier football competition is back in full swing this weekend, and what a build-up it has been!

Coaching messiah Ange Postecoglou has returned to his homeland, keen to replicate the success he embodied in the Sunshine state, at his new residence Melbourne Victory. The four-time coaching champion – two apiece with former NSL powerhouse South Melbourne and reigning A-League winner's Brisbane Roar – has set his sights on reinvigorating Victory's fortunes this campaign, after an eminently calamitous year which saw the

club miss the finals, a raft of innuendo surround the premise and two coaches depart. The addition of key imports, including new fan favourite Marcos Flores, will prove to be important factors in Victory's new structure.

There appears to be a buzz adjoining to the navy blues this season, even with the departure of Australian star Harry Kewell. With Postecoglou on board, fans are optimistic that his unique possession-based football ethos will take the club to the next level. The 47-year-old's first assignment is a big one, and it's against cross-town rival Melbourne Heart.

In their third A-League season, the red and whites commence the new campaign with an ostensibly weaker side on paper, having lost key youngsters abroad – Eli Babalj, Curtis Good and Brendan Hamill now plying their trade in Serbia, England and South Korea respectively – as well as exciting full-back Craig Goodwin to Newcastle Jets.

Heart will be looking to experienced journeyman Dylan Macallister to provide leadership in the attacking final third, with Croatian Josip Tadi and ex-Gold Coast United forward Gol-Gol Mebrahtu providing some much needed firepower. David Williams, who had an underwhelm-



Alessandro Del Piero's signing has created much interest back in Italy.

ing period in his first year at the club, has the aptitude and trickery to lift his side. If the former North Queensland Fury forward can lift a gear or two, it may just be the catalyst for Heart to secure a play-off berth. Rookie coach John Aloisi, who was the club's youth-team boss last year – takes over the reins of predecessor John van't Schip.

Meanwhile, to the harbour city, Italian football luminary Alessandro Del Piero is gracing our shores, truly conveying the Bling back at Sydney FC. The former Juventus legend and Italy World Cup winner has made soundwaves around Italy, deciding to choose Australia as his next des-

tinuation, after playing in Turin for a staggering 19 years. Not only is the signing a major coup for Sydney and the A-League, the worldwide exposure has been extraordinary. In a breakthrough deal, Football Federation Australia has agreed to terms to broadcast every Sydney FC game live throughout Italy on the Mediaset Company, established by the outspoken erstwhile Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi. Undoubtedly, this unique agreement illustrates the power of the world game, and the potential publicity the A-League can amass.

Speaking of the Sky Blues, they have a new neighbour, expansion outfit Western Sydney Wander-

ers. The league's newest edition will make its highly anticipated debut against the Central Coast Mariners on Saturday night – accompanied by its inaugural marquee signing, Japanese star Shinji Ono. For years, people have yearned for a team out in the west, and now they finally have their prized possession. The demolition of Gold Coast United paved the way for the Wanderers to enter the competition, and while there was criticism targeted at how the events unfolded, credit must be given to the FFA for getting this franchise up and running successfully, in only a matter of months.

Moving over to the Hunter Valley, the Newcastle Jets could claim bragging rights for the most valued import, after securing the services of ex-England international and former Liverpool stalwart Emile Heskey. The 34-year-old striker certainly has plenty to offer the A-League, having played in the English Premier League only last season for Aston Villa. Let's hope we see a barrage of goals and memorable highlights, from a talent that should unquestionably light up the competition.

The Jets' first test will be against a battle wearied Adelaide United outfit. The Reds, who once again showed why they're Australia's most premier club on the continental stage, fell narrowly short

of a semi-final berth in the Asian Champions League on Wednesday night – conceding a late goal in the second period of extra time, ultimately going down 3-2 to Uzbekistan's Bunyodkor. John Kosmina's men may return home empty handed, although they can hold their heads up high after a commendable run in the 2012 ACL. A return to the top-six in the A-League is on the agenda for Kosmina's troops, following a catastrophic campaign in 2011-12, culminating the year in ninth place.

Finally, who could forget that unforgettable finale to the 2012 grand final? The enmity between Brisbane Roar and Perth Glory will be on show this weekend – a spectacle well worth the wait. The controversy, which affectively handed Brisbane the grand prize, has not been overlooked by Perth coach Ian Ferguson, his players and particularly, the Glory faithful. Expect Albanian goal-machine Besart Berisha to get a hostile – and most probably unpleasant – reception when he enters Patersons Stadium come Sunday afternoon. Revenge is on the cards for the West Australian outfit.

Strap yourselves in football fans; season eight is set to be the most thrilling campaign yet.

Follow Robert on Twitter @RobertDiFabio





MELBOURNE VICTORY



2012/13 MELBOURNE VICTORY FOOTBALL CLUB

TOP ROW: 22 Julius Davies, 21 Spase Dilevski, 7 Gui Finkler, 4 Petar Franjic, 15 Sam Gallagher, 8 Jonathan Bru, 13 Diogo Ferreira
 MIDDLE ROW: Assistant Coach Kevin Muscat, 16 Theo Markelis, 17 Jimmy Jeggo, 20 Lawrence Thomas, 1 Tando Velaphi, 18 Danny Allsopp, 6 Leigh Broxham, 11 Marco Rojas
 FRONT ROW: 19 Isaka Cernak, 3 Adama Traore, 14 Billy Celeski, 10 Archie Thompson, Coach Ange Postecoglou, 23 Adrian Leijer, 9 Marcos Flores, 2 Matthew Foschini, 5 Mark Milligan

Boo's World

SUMMER SERIES



By Mark Boric

I'm sure there will be plenty of A-League previews elsewhere in the paper, so I'm cramming mine into a single paragraph. Looking forward to Chester Meredith's half-time spruiking of the TAB Sportsbet odds, Bozza's wild hair and 32,539 ads for the aforementioned TAB Sportsbet featuring Jaimee Rodgers. Some football would be nice too.

Adelaide United love the Rocky Horror Picture Show, because in going back to John Kosmina as coach they have done the Time Warp again. Not expecting Brisbane Roar to crumble without Ange, but a threepeat is a tough ask. Central Coast should be up there again, but I'd only expect them to challenge if their prodigal son Matt Simon returns from Asia. Melbourne Heart will need Fred to avoid injury to be competitive. Melbourne Victory could do okay if they shoot and not try



Gone but not forgotten: Gold Coast United.

and walk the ball into the net. Newcastle Jets have Emile Heskey leading the line, so they should be favourites to win the Melbourne Cup. Perth Glory will get goals from Shane Smeltz and cards from Jacob Burns. Sydney FC have signed Alessandro Del Piero, so expect them to draw good crowds until the novelty wears off i.e. one month. Wellington Phoenix will rely heavily on Paul Ifill once again. Western Sydney Wanderers are to be commended for having hooligans in action before they'd even played a single game.

A moment silence please, for those who have failed to make it to the 2012-13 HAL season. Lest we forget Gold Coast United. Sure there were plenty of minutes of silence at their games, especially when Clive Palmer locked the fans out. Mad Miron Bleiberg did some great pre and post-game

interviews though, and they were pretty good value at times. I guess the Iron Ore Cup will be forever Perth's now.

The A-League season kicks-off a week after a couple of nait-biting (and ear-biting in one case) Grand Finals in the AFL and NRL. Interesting to note that the AFL premiers Sydney Swans have salary cap concessions which have been well publicised and are written in the rules of the competition. The new NRL premiers, Melbourne Storm, were famously stripped of their last two titles by new FFA CEO David Gallop. I wonder what he makes of the revelations of the FFA contributing to the wages of some of the high profile recent signings? The FFA doesn't seem to be creating a very level playing field, and the font in the rulebook seems to be rather grey. Would he have stripped the title from Sydney

FC won with salary cap breaches, or would he have let it slide? Does it concern him that his new boss Frank Lowy was the head rat in the ranks of that affair?

Who will sign at a new club first, David Carney or Harry Kewell? Wouldn't have thought Harry would struggled to find a club going off his wife's Twitter pictures, she seems to have been scouting out a few though the white lines appeared to be on mirrors rather than grass.

Whilst on Twitter, how's the form of Adam Federici's missus? She vented her disgust at him being dropped by Reading, somehow oblivious to the two howlers he'd made in the opening week of the season. Get off Twitter, get an apron on and get back in the kitchen please.

VPL FINALS PREVIEW: PRELIMINARY FINAL

Two teams going for their own unique three-peat will battle it out this weekend as Dandenong Thunder take on Green Gully Cavaliers in the Victorian Premier League Preliminary Final at Kingston Heath Soccer Complex on Saturday 6 October, 3pm.

Dandenong, having taken out the VPL Minor Premiership and the State Knockout Cup, are trying to achieve the first Victorian treble since Green Gully in 1981, over thirty years ago.

The Cavaliers meanwhile are two games away from winning their third consecutive VPL Grand Final, something which hasn't been done since Altona Magic in 1997.

Both clubs will get the chance to achieve their three-peat as the winner of the Preliminary Final will take on Oakleigh Cannons in the VPL Grand Final at AAMI Park.

With differing fortunes last week, Green Gully come into this match with the momentum following their 3-1 victory

over Northcote, but Dandenong have the edge over the Cavaliers this season having defeated them 3-0 in the two previous meetings in 2012.

Hoping to avoid an embarrassing straight sets exit, Dandenong will be chomping at the bit to continue their recent good form over their opposition but will have to do so without the services of Mathew Theodore after the key midfielder tore two tendons off the bone in the penalty shoot-out loss to Oakleigh Cannons last week.

The VPL Preliminary Final will be preceded by the State League One Play-Off Final at midday between Whittlesea Ranges and Box Hill United with the winner to play in State League One in 2013.

Preliminary Final
Dandenong Thunder
v
Green Gully Cavaliers
Saturday 3pm
Kingston Heath Soccer Complex



Osagie Ederaro scores for Green Gully in the 3-1 defeat over Northcote City.
Photo: JOHN PUNSHON

A Club In A Nutshell



By Simon Pearson

Early Doors
West Ham United Football Club, known as the Hammers or the Irons formed in 1895 and originally named Thames Ironworks FC.

Based in Upton park in the borough of Newham, Greater London, not too far from the site of the London Olympic park ; a place the club have long been associated with a move to.

Dave Taylor a local referee and foreman at the ironworks was responsible for founding the club. Initially the team consisted of the works employees, mostly boiler-makers and other shipbuilding craftsmen or crew.

The club crest depicts a castle thought to be the Boleyn Castle where Henry V111 courted his second Queen Anne Boleyn. She was executed by head decapitation. In front of the castle is a pair of rivet hammers crossed. Over the years, the castle has developed slightly to incorporate changes in the stadium structure, but the badge remains largely untouched.



World Cup trio: West Ham's England heroes of 1966, Geoff Hurst (left), Bobby Moore and Martin Peters.

Turning Pro

The Hammers turned professional in 1898 and were promoted to the first division within a season. Wearing an all-dark blue strip in their early incarnation, before switching to a sky blue shirt and white shorts/socks. In 1899, they settled on the famous claret shirt with sky blue sleeves and white shorts/socks. The club changed its name to West Ham United after a dispute over how best to run the club saw the team disband. They quickly reformed though and moved from their ground in Plaistow to Upton Park. Their stadium 'Boleyn Ground' is on Green Street.

At The Movies

'Green Street Hooligans' the film, was adapted by former hooligan turned author Dougie Brimson and is centred on one of England's most notorious football firms "the inner City Firm". The ICF were documented previously to Green Street in a film entitled- 'The Firm' starring Gary Oldman and directed by Alan Clarke. This cult classic depicts the extremity of football violence and menace to society, mostly set amidst 'Thatcher's' Britain during the miners strike. The fact that the East end club have long been associated with hooliganism and mindless violence is a tiny

percentage of why West Ham is one of those team names that prick up the ears.



It is a terrible shame that a super club such as WHU have had such a big grey cloud following them around, although hooliganism has diminished considerably since the 1970's and much has changed for the better.

Blowing Bubbles

The song that fans have been singing since the 1920's- "I'm Forever blowing Bubbles ", is a 1920's Broadway dancehall swing tune. The words were slightly adapted over time by fans but the song is beautiful and a pleasure to hear sung by a full house (40,000+ ca-

capacity).It is considered the most recognised football club anthem alongside Liverpool's "You'll never walk alone"

Top of the Pops (Nearly)

Although the highest top tier position West Ham have reached is third (1985-86). They have however won the prestigious FA Cup 3 times, league cup twice, European cup winners and the UEFA Intertoto Cup among several lesser cups and lower division titles as champions. They have also been runners up many times in a number of cups and promotions. One of the most entertaining and memorable FA cup finals for the neutral fan, was between West Ham and Liverpool in 2006. The game ended 3-3 after extra time and Liverpool won the match 3-1 on penalties.

Hammers win the World Cup!

During the 1960's, West Ham developed a special aura. Under the managerial guidance of Ron Greenwood (He became England national team manager in the 1970's)the club won an FA CUP and the European cup winners cup. They also produced stars for the England World cup winning team of 1966, with three of the greatest players ever to grace the field; Sir Bobby Moore (544 club appearances for the Hammers), Martin Peters MBE (302 apps), and Sir Geoff Hurst (411 apps- and the only striker ever to score a hat trick in a world cup final to date).

The Academy

West Ham United has always been associated with a certain type of

attacking football. They have produced many of England's best players in their own youth academy system such as the world cup-winning trio mentioned above. Add to that; Sir Trevor Brooking, Alvin Martin, Rio Ferdinand, Joe Cole, Tony Cottee, Frank Lampard, Micheal Carrick, Glen Johnson,Jermaine Defoe and Paul Ince- to name but a few of the high profile players to develop at West Ham.

East End Idols

To sign off, a Hammers fan would not forgive me if I didn't mention a few of their other idols at the club, so; Billy Bonds (most appearances 793), Vic Watson (most goals 326), Julian Dicks (Hammer of the year 4 times) and lastly -Paulo Di Cannio for his character, style, amazing goals and notably for catching the ball from a dangerous cross into the box and stopping the play during a match v Everton. He noticed the Keeper had twisted his knee after attempting a clearance.FIFA awarded Di Cannio the fair play award and described his action as "a special act of good sportsmanship".

The Rise and Rise

West Ham United were promoted via the play offs last season. Returning at the first attempt to the Premiership, under the managerial guidance of 'Big Sam Alardyce'. Fans will be hoping their beloved team can stay out of financial trouble and controversy that has surrounded the club for so long and try to consolidate a place in the higher echelons of English football.

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Get ready for Melbourne Heart's most exciting season yet. We've got Socceroo legend John Aloisi on board as manager and now we need you! This season our members take centre stage. Become our No.12 and together we will triumph. With 13 massive home games and a great range of membership options - it's time to play your part! Join online at melbourneheartfc.com.au or call 1300 ALL HEART (255 432).

FOR THE LOVE OF THE GAME

Planet Football

Senegal



By Alvaro Rodriguez



Senegal's El-Hadji Diouf (right) takes on French stars Marcel Desailly (No.8) and Patrick Vieira at the 2002 World Cup.

Just in case the GPS ain't working...



joyed only moderate success on the continental stage(a patch of quarter-final appearances at the African Nations Cup between 1965 and 1994; although the country boasts a fine record at the regional West African Cup) before their international breakthrough in 2002 - the year of their maiden World Cup finals appearance and 2nd-place showing at the African Nations Cup.

Of global interest was their WC opening match against ex-colonial masters and reigning world champs France, boasting Zinedine Zidane and the rest of that golden generation of French football(also the fact Senegal were coached by a Frenchman, Bruno Metsu). Undaunted by the task however, the Senegalese pulled off one of the great upsets of WC history, edging out Les Bleus 1-0 courtesy of a goal from Papa Bouba Diop in the 30th minute - a fairytale result that set the tone for both countries' respective campaigns; the shellshocked French later drawing with Uruguay and losing to Denmark thus becoming the first reigning title-holder to be eliminated at the group stage since Brazil at England '66. Senegal on the other hand drew with both Denmark and Uruguay(the latter a scintillating 3-3 finish) to progress out of the group and into the second round, where they again defied expectations by edging out Sweden 2-1. The quarter-final against fellow WC upstart Turkey(this being only the Turks' 2nd-ever finals appearance and first since 1954) was the end of the road however, losing to an Ihan Mansiz

extra-time goal. Nevertheless the Senegalese won hearts the world over(exceeded in fairytale-status only by the semi-finalist co-hosts South Korea, led by Guus Hiddink) and Diop and dynamic attacker El-Hadji Diouf in particular began being courted by big-name European clubs.

Anyone who'd seen Senegal's performance at the African Nations Cup earlier in the year might well have dared predict the fairytale WC run, given the Senegalese had edged out traditional African powers Tunisia, Egypt and Nigeria before succumbing at the last to Cameroon in a penalty shoot-out.

Understandably, hopes were high of a successive WC appearance in Germany '06 but were edged out in qualifying by another finals debutant in Togo, and disappointing showings at the African Nations Cup since 2004 have only compounded the nation's failure to qualify for the World Cup again, despite the country now being a steady exporter of playing talent.

BIG CLUBS
ASC Jeanne D'Arc, ASC Diaraf and AS Douanes are the country's biggest clubs, although only the first has made any significant impact at continental level(making the semi-finals of the 2004 African Champions League); between them they boast over 25 domestic league and cup titles.

REP YOUR COLORS
Nicknamed The Lions of Teranga, the Senegalese NT plays in a

predominantly-white strip with green/red/yellow(the national flag's colours) incorporated into the design, which varies from time to time(such as the green shorts worn during the 2002 WC); as for the clubs, Jeanne D'Arc wear the North Melbourne/Sheffield Wednesday template of blue and white stripes/blue shorts/blue socks whilst Diaraf wear a white/green-trimmed top with green shorts and socks; and finally Douanes wear red and white stripes w/white sleeves, red shorts and white socks.

MATCHWINNERS
Papa Bouba Diop and El-Hadji Diouf were the country's two breakout stars at Korea/Japan 2002, a steely defender and pace-blessed winger/striker respectively, and both went on to bigger European clubs straight after the World Cup - Diouf's £10m move to Liverpool in particular was big news. Unfortunately his time at Anfield soon turned sour after spitting at a Celtic fan in a UEFA Cup/Europa League fixture which not only earned him an ear-bashing from Gerard Houllier but heralded a massive dip in form and professional attitude which eventually saw him move on to Bolton Wanderers. From there he moved on to Sunderland, Blackburn Rovers and Rangers before signing with Leeds United this season. Despite a barren trophy cabinet, he has the honour of being twice named African Footballer of the Year and in 2004 received a special accolade from Pelé himself when the master named Diouf as one of the

Greatest 100 Living Footballers. Bouba Diop went on to play for RC Lens, Fulham, Portsmouth, AEK Athens and West Ham before being released at the end of last season as a free agent - are you paying attention, A-League clubs?

The current crop of Teranga Lions includes defender Papa Gu-eye, who despite racking up over 150 games for Ukraine's Metalist Kharkiv has only earned 4 caps for his country; but the best-known at present would be the Premier League-based trio of Mohamed Diamé (defensive-mid recently signed by West Ham after 96 games and 5 goals for Wigan), and Newcastle United's strike duo of Papiss Cissé and Demba Ba. Other Senegalese players abroad include Ludovic Sané, who plies his trade for French giants Bordeaux, and strike duo Moussa Sow and Dame N'Doye, who play for Turkish powerhouse Fenerbahçe and Lokomotiv Moscow respectively.

SO WHAT NOW?
Senegal will be desperate to qualify for next year's African Nations Cup in South Africa to push their 2014 WC qualifying cause, but as they must overcome continental giant the Ivory Coast over two legs(the first of which finished 4-2 to the Ivorians on September 8th; the second is held on October 13th) the task at hand appears beyond them; hence despite their healthy contingent of foreign-based talent, who knows how long till the Lions of Teranga again roar at the biggest stage of all.

What's HOT!!

HOT: Does it really need to be said? The A-League is back - with a new club(Western Sydney Wanderers) finally representing Australia's traditional footballing heartland at national-league level...and rivals Sydney FC retorting with the marquee coup of none other than Alessandro Del Piero! It's been nearly two months since Sydney FC announced their bold plan to snare him, and despite everything it probably still hasn't 100% sunk in that the Bianconeri and Azzurri icon, one of the best players of the past 20 years period, is gracing our national league in what is nothing less than a watershed boon for Australian domestic football. Whilst there have been those quick to douse talk of a 'Beckham to MLS'-effect, might I point out that as a result of his signing, Sydney FC have secured an exclusive TV deal in Italy for their home games-finals in addition to their jerseys now put up for sale in Italy, with talk also going round of Sydney maybe touring Italy for next year's pre-season! On top of that, Newcastle's and WSW Wanderers' respective signings of Emile Heskey and Shinji Ono(not to mention those Michael Ballack to Wanderers-rumours) were no doubt made easier by the added pedigree of a global football icon like ADP about to grace the league. That is just the tip of the iceberg of course, with both Melbourne clubs geared up for a bumper season and first-up derby after squad clean-outs/coaching changes; the Ange Postecoglou-less Brisbane Roar looking to continue their dominance under Rado Vidosic, and whether Perth Glory can again upset the appccat by making another title assault. There's just too many other threads/subplots to touch on here but suffice to say it's awesome to have our A-League back, so get down to the games and support with all your heart and soul because, WE ARE FOOTBALL!

What's NOT!!

NOT: The overly-long off-season for mine, which can and should be offset by allowing A-League clubs to play in their home states' respective Cup comps as well as maybe reintroducing the Pre-Season Cup with overseas clubs as guest participants, or the possibility of playing an A-League All-Star Game. Whichever of these or other options, anything is better for all concerned than to have the A-League clubs standing completely still(save those competing in the Asian Champions League) for practically half the year!

Football Quotes

"He has more than 3.2 million Facebook fans, 327,000 followers on Twitter and has scored more than 750,000 views on his own YouTube site. Add these to the millions of television viewers throughout Europe, Australia and Asia who will watch him play, and we have achieved a phenomenal promotional opportunity to grow traffic to Australia's premier online destination and events website."

The announcement was made by Sandra Chipchase, CEO Destination NSW as the Sydney FC players were presented with their 2012/13 strip at Allianz Stadium.

"I spoke to Robbie (Fowler) about everything. He told me it was hotter where he played. I am sure I will get used to it very quickly. " Former England International Emile Heskey takes the heat off after touching down in Newcastle.

The PFA Column



Football is an emotional game. The final siren of the 2011/2012 A-League season signified different things for different playing groups. The Brisbane Roar players experienced the elation and joy of Championship success while the Perth Glory team were left heartbroken in defeat. The Grand Final sides experienced contrasting emotions but they were natural by-products of the passion associated with football. It was the feelings of insecurity and uncertainty suffered by the Gold Coast United players as a result of the revocation of their club's license that were the most concerning emotions evident at the conclusion of last year's A-League season. The loss of Gold Coast United shows there is still significant work to be done to establish financial stability and build the status of football in Australia.

In the last 6 months there have been some positive developments in the A-League. The new Western Sydney team is up and running, an announcement of an improved broadcast deal appears imminent and the competition is riding a wave of exciting emotions on the back of the signings of Marquee players Alessandro Del Piero, Emile Heskey and Shinji Ono. A further positive and encouraging step was the unified stance taken by the key stakeholders in condemning the unsociable crowd behaviour in some pre-season matches. Despite the recent collaborative approach, there is still some division about the best way for the game to achieve financial stability. Sadly, some stakeholders still hold the ill-conceived view that the players' salaries and conditions need to be curtailed. This view is narrow-minded because in order to achieve long term sustainability the game needs to grow revenue not engage in cost control. In order for the game to grow we need to capture the hearts of Australian sporting fans. Football has the highest participation rate of the 4 football codes in Australia and has millions of fans who love the World Game. The challenge is to convert these participants and fans of other football leagues into fans and partici-

pants of the A-League. This will not be achieved by providing a sub-standard spectacle that does not attract the best players. The fans will be energised by providing a quality product in a good atmosphere that is visible in the community. This can only be done by making the A-League an attractive career path for both future stars of the game and superstars looking to play in a good league. The fundamental rights of players such as contract security, player payments, insurance and investing in player development need to be protected in order to attract the highest calibre of player to the A-League. This will provide a quality product that will ultimately capture the hearts of football fans and get them to embrace the A-League. In turn, the fan engagement will bring about a great atmosphere, the sponsors and broadcasters will follow and this will ensure football's long term growth and financial success in Australia is achieved. As the Heart meets the Victory in the 2012 season opener, it is the hearts of the fans that we must capture in order to achieve Victory for football in Australia.

Nick Holland is Chief Executive of Professional Footballers Australia (PFA) and writes an occasional column.

It's Marconi's Cup!

Marconi Stallions caused a mammoth upset on grand-final Monday to defeat Premiers Bonnyrigg White Eagles 2-0 and seal the 2012 NSW Premier League Minor Premiership trophy at Bonnyrigg Sports Club. Played to a frantic pace for large spells, a second-half brace to Nathan Elasi sealed the deal for the Stallions – the former White Eagles player returning to haunt his former side at his former stomping ground. Elasi's fine display landed the former White Eagles and Melbourne Victory player the Robbie Slater Man of the Match Award, Elasi becoming the fourth player to receive the accolade since its inception in 2009. Scenes of jubilation followed as the Marconi players and supporters went into a frenzy as the club put aside the disappointment of losing the 2009 grand-final against Sutherland Sharks. BY JOSEPH CARLUCCI



Couch Potato



* ALL TIMES ARE AEDT

SBS ONE
Sunday October 7th
 10:30 am FIFA World Cup 2014 Magazine
 11:00 am UEFA Champions League Magazine

Monday October 8th
 11:00 pm The World Game

SBS TWO
Monday October 8th
 9:30 pm The World Game

Tuesday October 9th
 10:50 pm FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup 2012: Semi Final 1 - Live from Eighth Kilometer District Stadium, Baku, Azerbaijan.

2:00 am FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup 2012: Semi Final 2 - Live from Eighth Kilometer District Stadium, Baku, Azerbaijan.

Saturday October 13th
 1:30 am FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup 2012 Final - Live from Tofik Bakhranov Stadium, Baku, Azerbaijan.



Friday 5th Oct
 02:30 am The Serie A Highlights Show
 03:00 am Arsenal TV Everton V Arsenal
 08:00 am Bundesliga Weekly Highlights

Saturday 6th Oct
 05:30 am The Serie A Highlights Show

Sunday 7th Oct
 06:00 am Arsenal TV

Monday 9th Oct
 03:00 am Bundesliga Weekly Highlights
 12:30 pm The Serie A Highlights Show

Tuesday 10th Oct
 03:00 am Arsenal TV Arsenal V Aston Villa

Thursday 11th Oct
 02:00 am Magic Of The FA Cup Manchester City's Greatest Goals
 03:00 am Bundesliga
 05:00 am Bundesliga Weekly Highlights



Saturday 6-Oct
 Bundesliga Round 7 Augsburg v Werder Bremen 4:25am **LIVE**
 SPL Round 9 Inverness v Ross County 3:30pm 1st Airing
 npower Championship Round 10 Birmingham v Huddersfield 11:55pm **LIVE**

Sunday 7-Oct
 npower Championship Round 10 Ipswich v Cardiff 3:15am **LIVE**
 Bundesliga Round 7 Bayern Munich v Hoffenheim 6:00am 1st Airing
 Bundesliga Round 7 Schalke v Wolfsburg 1:45pm 1st Airing
 SPL Round 9 Celtic v Hearts 10:40pm **LIVE**

Monday 8-Oct
 Eredivisie Round 8 Ajax v Utrecht 12:45am 1st Airing
 Bundesliga Round 7 Hannover v Dortmund 2:25am **LIVE**
 Bundesliga Round 7 Monchengladbach v Frankfurt 4:30am 1st Airing
 Primera Division Round 10 Teams TBC 6:10am **LIVE**
 Eredivisie Round 8 PSV v NAC 8:15am 1st Airing
 Primera Division Round 10 Teams TBC 10:00am **LIVE**
 Eredivisie Round 8 Twente v AZ 12:15pm 1st Airing

Thursday 11-Oct
 Blue Square Premier Round 14 Stockport v Wrexham 5:30am **LIVE**

Saturday 13-Oct
 World Cup Qualifier UEFA FYR Macedonia v Croatia 5:25am **LIVE**
 World Cup Qualifier CONMEBOL Ecuador v Chile 7:55am **LIVE**
 World Cup Qualifier CONMEBOL Bolivia v Peru 10:00am 1st Airing
 World Cup Qualifier CONMEBOL Colombia v Paraguay 11:45am 1st Airing
 World Cup Qualifier UEFA England v San Marino 1:45pm 1st Airing
 World Cup Qualifier UEFA Greece v Bosnia 3:30pm 1st Airing

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE LIVE
 Times listed are 7 minutes prior to kick-offs.

WEEK 8
Sat Oct 6 Manchester City v Sunderland 9:38 pm Fox 1
Sat Oct 6 Chelsea v Norwich 11:53 pm Fox 1
Sat Oct 6 Swansea v Reading 11:53 pm Viewers Choice
Sat Oct 6 West Brom v QPR 11:53 pm Viewers Choice
Sat Oct 6 Wigan v Everton 11:53 pm Viewers Choice
Sun Oct 7 West Ham v Arsenal 3:23 am Fox 1
Sun Oct 7 Southampton v Fulham 11:23 pm Fox 1
Mon Oct 8 Liverpool v Stoke 12:53 am Viewers Choice
Mon Oct 8 Newcastle v Manchester United 1:53 am Fox 1
Mon Oct 8 Tottenham v Aston Villa 1:53 am Viewers Choice

English Premier League
 No matches scheduled next week due to international fixtures.

World Cup Qualifier
 Iraq v Australia
 Wednesday 17 October
 3:30 am
 Fox 1

Hyundai A-League
 All games **LIVE**

Oct 12 Adelaide v Western Sydney 7.30 pm
 Oct 13 Sydney v Newcastle 5.30 pm
 Oct 13 Brisbane v Victory 7.30 pm
 Oct 14 Melbourne Heart v Wellington 3.00 pm
 Oct 14 Central Coast v Perth 5.00 pm

FOX SPORTS FC
 Every Tuesday 8.30 pm

Round 01: ASK THE EXPERTS

THE VERDICT

Victory (12) Glory (7) Draw (2) - SFC (12) Wanderers (7) Draw (2) - Mariners (12) Phoenix (7) Draw (2) - Heart (12) AUFC (7) Draw (2) - Jets (12) Roar (7) Draw (2)

SANTO CILAURO **00**

Melb Heart Draw
 (Del Piero own goal)
 Mariners
 Newcastle Jets
 Perth Glory

CRAIG MACKENZIE **00**

Melb Victory Draw
 Mariners
 Newcastle Jets
 Perth Glory

EDDIE KRNEVIC **00**

Melb Victory Phoenix
 West Sydney Draw
 Draw

PETER KATHOLOS **00**

Draw
 Sydney FC
 Draw
 Newcastle Jets
 Draw

ROGER SLEEMAN **00**

Melb Victory Phoenix
 Draw
 Newcastle Jets
 Perth Glory

ANDY HARPER **00**

Victory
 Sydney FC
 Mariners
 Adelaide Utd
 Brisbane Roar

JOHN DOYLE **00**

Melb Heart
 Sydney FC
 Mariners
 Newcastle Jets
 Brisbane Roar

KISS OF DEATH **00**

Victory
 Phoenix
 Mariners
 Adelaide Utd
 Brisbane Roar

FAN POLL

Last week's question:

Which club will win the A-League title in 2012/13?

Results



This week's question:

Which import player will fair best in the A-League?

- A) Alessandro Del Piero
- B) Emile Heskey
- C) Shinji Ono
- D) Marcos Flores

Cast your vote at www.goalweekly.com and be in the running to win A-League match tickets.

Terrace Talk



Watching a match? Referee having a nightmare? Reckon you can do better?

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SPOT THE BALL



How to Play: First, you need to 'Like' the Goal! Weekly Facebook page. Then, add your answer under comments of this photo on the GW wall before 9pm AEST 06/09/2012. Those who submit the correct answer will go into a draw to win two A-League match tickets. Correct answer will be revealed on GW Facebook 07/09/2012. Winner notified by email and in next week's edition of GW.



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Blast From The Past



By Roy Hay

It is very appropriate that the 2012-13 season of the A-League starts with a Melbourne derby, for there have been many stirring battles between local teams over the years. The Victory versus Heart rivalry has only been going since 2010 but it is already one of the most eagerly awaited clashes by fans of both sides.

Way back in 1920 when what was then called British football, to distinguish it from the local variety, resumed after the First World War the English from Northumberland and Durhams took on the Scots from Melbourne Thistle in a second round match in the Dockerty Cup. The reporter mentioned a record crowd, but did not give a number. There was no score in what was described as 'a fast clean game', though R Miller of N and D had the misfortune to break this leg. The game was played at Middle Park and there were several other matches played that day involving Welsh United, St David's, Footscray Thistle, Burns plus Albert Park and St Kilda. Usually at least once a season the Scots and the English would field teams drawn from the local clubs and this match drew around 4,000 spectators in 1913.

South Yarra and Prahran were fierce rivals in the inter-war years and carried that on into the 1940s. 'South Yarra and Prahran are old rivals and the meeting at Fawkner Park will be in the nature of a Derby Day,' wrote J. O. Wilshaw in the Sporting Globe in April 1950. Moreland and Park Rangers were two clubs which drew on a Scottish heritage and had some monumental battles prior to amalgamating in 1985. A constant problem was access to quality grounds on which to play and it was not till the game got regular access to Olympic Park in the 1950s that large-scale attendance could add the essential element to local derbies—the passionate support of legions of opposing fans.

As migrants from Europe poured into Victoria in the 1950s and 1960s and set up their own clubs, sometimes following rejection by existing ones, a whole series of new local derbies emerged. When Juventus met JUST for the first time in the top division of Victorian football on 12 April 1952, 5,000 fans turned up and paid \$560 to watch the match at Olympic Park. This was the start of an intense rivalry and it began with the game being suspended by the referee after 20 minutes play following an altercation between the teams. Despite this and the fact that the match was not replayed or points awarded Juventus won the league and JUST came third.

By the early 1960s crowd numbers had swelled to over 20,000 for key local derbies. The Victorian Soccer Federation was now in charge of the game in this state. In July 1962 the Juventus versus South Melbourne Hellas match at Olympic Park had a reported 20,000 present and a month later estimates of the attendance at the George Cross against Hellas game ranged up to 25,000. With numbers at Australian Rules football stagnating between 1957 and 1969 the challenge of soccer seemed very real and campaigns

Melbourne derbies take centre stage



Victory fans let this Heart fan know the right way to the hot dog stand. Photo: TIM SIZE



Defender David Hogben scores for Green Gully against George Cross in 1983. Photo: Les Shorrock collection, Deakin University Library.



Peter Tsolakis (right) takes on Willie Herd during the Heidelberg United v South Melbourne derby / 23-Dec-1990. Photo: JOHN PUNSHON

against what was portrayed as an imported game intensified. For comparison, average Victorian Football League crowds for home and away games in the late 1950s and 1960s were around 23,000. In the 1970s following World Cup qualification and the setting up of the National Soccer League the focus of the game shifted from the state to the national and international levels. But local derbies

remained important as South Melbourne Hellas and Heidelberg United Alexander fought for bragging rights among the Greek community. JUST, Juventus and George Cross drew their best crowds when in opposition to each other in Melbourne in the NSL. In the 1980s Melbourne Croatia (later Knights) finally joined the national competition and through the 1990s the rivalry with South

Melbourne resulted in a number of stirring encounters. In 1990-91 South Melbourne won on penalties after a one-all draw at Olympic Park in the NSL grand final in front of 23,318. Joe Palatsides got the equaliser for Hellas with only a couple of minutes left to play after Andrew Marth had put the Knights ahead in 25 minutes. In 1994 the Knights prevailed in a two-leg major semi-final by four



A great moment for Joe Palatsides as he celebrates his 88th minute goal that sent the match into extra time in the NSL Grand Final 1990-91 (Melbourne Croatia v South Melbourne). Photo: JOHN PUNSHON

SOCCER WEEKLY

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Hellas-Juventus clash drew soccer's dream crowd!

20,000 FANS SMASH CROWD RECORDS AT THE PARK

By MORRIS BUCKNER

Crowd records for a league match were smashed to smithereens last Sunday when the Juventus-Hellas clash drew over 20,000 fans to Olympic Park.

This was the biggest crowd seen at the Park since 1955, when 25,000 spectators crammed soccer's headquarters to see Stanley Matthews in action.

OLYMPIC PARK WILL BE FLOODLIT!

The lights will definitely go "on" at Olympic Park in time for the next summer soccer season.

Cost of erecting the towers of 200 ft. high, planned lighting system may exceed £20,000.

Plans are being drawn up for the lighting system of the stadium at Olympic Park in time for the next summer soccer season.

APPEAL UPHeld BY COUNCIL

Tuesday night's Federation council meeting awarded points for the Hellas-Hellas match on May 19 to Hellas.

Hellas had won 3-2, but the match was suspended after 20 minutes play because of an altercation between the teams.

HATS OFF TO MELB!

It was a great day for Melbourne soccer fans when the Juventus-Hellas match was played at Olympic Park last Sunday.

The match was a great success for Melbourne soccer, and the fans who attended the match were well rewarded.

OPERATION FORWARD

Forward players of the Juventus-Hellas match were well rewarded for their efforts.

The match was a great success for Melbourne soccer, and the fans who attended the match were well rewarded.

NEW PIVOT

Forward players of the Juventus-Hellas match were well rewarded for their efforts.

The match was a great success for Melbourne soccer, and the fans who attended the match were well rewarded.

Soccer News reports a record crowd for a club match in Victoria in 1962. Soccer News, 5 July 1962, p. 1.

Melbourne Victory versus Melbourne Heart derbies					
Date	Result	Venue	Round	Attendance	
08-Oct-10	Melbourne Victory 2 Melbourne Heart 1	AAMI Park	HAL 10	25,897	
11-Dec-10	Melbourne Heart 1 Melbourne Victory 3	AAMI Park	HAL 21	23,059	
22-Jan-11	Melbourne Victory 2 Melbourne Heart 2	Etihad Stdm	HAL 26	32,231	
22-Oct-11	Melbourne Victory 0 Melbourne Heart 0	Etihad Stdm	HAL 03	39,039	
23-Dec-11	Melbourne Heart 3 Melbourne Victory 2	AAMI Park	HAL 12	26,579	
04-Feb-12	Melbourne Heart 0 Melbourne Victory 0	AAMI Park	HAL 20	26,395	

goals to three. Within the various migrant communities there are also inter-club rivalries that have produced teathy encounters over the years—Green Gully versus Sunshine George Cross, Preston against Altona Gate, the Knights and St Albans, South Melbourne and Oakleigh, for example. David Hogben still remembers his winning goal against George Cross which helped give Green Gully the league title in 1983, which was followed by promotion to the NSL. As he told Peter Desira, 'The one lasting highlight of my career was the Green Gully-George Cross rivalry. ... Those were really the

big games of the year. Don't ever underestimate the power of the derby—everywhere around the world.' So local derbies always give the fans something special and it has not taken long for Victory versus Heart to become a key game in the football calendar. At the start Victory liked to claim that its main rivalries were with Sydney and Adelaide, but the Melbourne and Victorian public has embraced the local game. Nearly 40,000 were present at the Round 3 match last year and the record stands at two wins to Heart, one to Victory and three draws in the six matches played.

Matchday D-day for Diamataris



PHIL Diamataris is a methodical man. He's standing quietly and confidently in the tunnel at Etihad Stadium minutes before the start of an A-League game.

Mentally he's ticking off the remaining boxes as the event that he oversees is about to get underway.

He is an FFA match commissioner and he keeps glancing at his watch. Timing is crucial as part of Diamataris's brief is to see that Foxsports' needs for punctuality are met.

Suddenly his attention is diverted by a group of starry-eyed children moving into position alongside their football heroes and grabbing them nervously by the hand.

Diamataris checks one final time that everything is in order as lines of players and children take shape then prepare to march out in front of a large and colourful crowd.

Moments such as these can strike an emotional chord deep within the former South Melbourne FC director.

"Honestly, mate, there are times when it just about brings a tear to my eye," said Diamataris.

"I never ever thought that the game would come so far in my lifetime. And to see so many women and children in the crowd enjoying themselves is fantastic, it really is."

Diamataris, 49, remains passionate about football albeit that the highs he experienced as a player and administrator have been counter-balanced by some devastating lows.

He comes from football royalty. His godfather, the late and great Theo Marmaras, is a founding member of South Melbourne Hellas and his late uncle Jim is a former president.

He can't remember when he first dreamt of playing for South Melbourne's seniors and wonders if it was a congenital phenomenon given his genealogy.

To this day it saddens him to think that he was never able to fulfil that dream.

"I look back on my playing career as a big missed opportunity but I was my own worst enemy. I thought I had a God-given right to play for South Melbourne," he said.

His memory of being in the club's juniors alongside Theo Selemidis, Kris Kalifatidis, George Pavlidis, Socrates Nicolaides and Pepe Abraam is vivid.

Back then he was a skinny kid with pace to burn and although

it hurt to make the switch it was at Melbourne Hungaria that he made his senior debut as a 16-year-old.

He was invited to train with the young Socceroos, a squad that featured fellow Victorians Eddie Krncevic, Alan Davidson, George Christopoulos and Jeff Olver.

"And out of that squad just one person didn't make it to the national league - me.

"I can remember making fun of guys like Krncevic, Davidson and Christopoulos for training so hard. Now I know that is how these guys all made it. I took it for granted that I was going to make it and it didn't happen for me."

Maybe not at the level he wanted but don't think that Diamataris the footballer was a failure. He captained Port Melbourne, won promotion with Western Suburbs and won a championship with Caulfield.

And he was a big fish in a small pond for the last two years of his career when he played for Cobram in Victoria's North Eastern Soccer League.

Diamataris made the switch from player to administrator by returning to Port as team manager in 1993 before moving into sponsorship and marketing during a 10-year stint at the club.

The highlight of his return came in 1995 when Port's senior team created a Victorian Premier League record by winning the championship by a staggering 22 points.

Mate it was the funniest thing. The Greek officials carried the trophy around in this massive dirty-looking Puma bag with a couple of old towels in it. I guess they thought no-one would take any notice.

Takis Svingos was senior coach and despite the all-conquering season his team went out of the finals in straight sets.

"That was hard to take," said Diamataris. "We lost our second finals game on penalties and we were devastated."

Diamataris found himself drawn back to his beloved South Melbourne earlier this century as the club went through one of the darkest periods in its history.

He pulls no punches when he describes the situation South Melbourne was in as the old national league was about to draw its final breath.

"You'd run a milk bar better than Souths was run back then. The club was going nowhere and had a million dollar debt," he said.

"It was a case of the old guard not wanting to lose control and not letting the young guard take over and deal with the issues, which were frightening. At one stage as directors our houses were on the line."

South Melbourne was placed in voluntary administration in April 2004 owing the Australian Taxation Office around \$700,000.

Diamataris and his fellow directors had each lent the club between \$50,000 and \$100,000 to keep it afloat.

"The ATO accepted 30 cents in the dollar and the administrators struck a deal with other creditors that we would leave our money in the club if they also accepted 30 cents in the dollar. Fortunately for everyone concerned and for the club's sake they agreed."

But Diamataris had quietly gone about forging a new football direction for himself even before joining the South Melbourne board. During the 2000 Sydney Olympics he'd met Patrick Komninos, the then CEO of the Greek FA. Komninos was on a reconnaissance mission as he had been appointed as director of the football tournament at the 2004 Olympics in Athens.

Komninos offered Diamataris a job working with the Athens organising committee but Diamataris declined.

"I look back on that now as a dumb move because a lot of those people now work for FIFA. But he offered me a job as liaison officer for the Olyroos and I accepted.

"It was one of the highlights of my life. Going to Greece, the country my parents came from, and working with the Aussies. It doesn't get any better than that.

"That's when I met guys like John Boulton and Gary Moretti and they liked what I did and that was how I got involved whenever our national teams were in Melbourne."

And although Diamataris would return to Port Melbourne as president for four years combining that role with his liaison officer responsibilities it was the latter that gave him the key that unlocked the door to the Holy Grail of Greek football, the 2004 European Championship Trophy. The Greek national team carried that prized possession with it when it came to Melbourne in 2006 to play the Socceroos at the MCG.

"Mate it was the funniest thing. The Greek officials carried the trophy around in this massive dirty-looking Puma bag with a couple of old towels in it. I guess they thought no-one would take



Lucky Phil - Phil Diamataris plants a kiss on the 2004 European Nations Trophy.

any notice.

"Anyway the Malaysian owners of the hotel Greece were staying in were really keen football fans and I showed them the trophy. I told them that this was something all their money couldn't buy and they couldn't believe it. We all took photos of each other with the trophy and that photo is one of my greatest possessions."

The next step to becoming an A-League match commissioner was seamless for Diamataris. His playing and administrative backgrounds were a sound base and underpinned his appointment for the 2007-08 season.

There are three Melbourne-based match commissioners. The others are former World Cup finals referee and current FFV referee manager Chris Bambridge and former FFV competitions manager and events manager Mariela Pena.

"I love being a match commis-

sioner. It's all behind the scenes. There's no profile and I love the non-political element of my role. "It's a very responsible position because you are the go-to person and you have the over-riding power regarding the staging of the event.

"You oversee the home club and ensure that they do everything necessary to host the event. You oversee security, presentation of the venue, you ensure that commercial partners are serviced and that Foxsports' requirements are met.

"FFA has put a really good system in place and the whole process is so slick nowadays.

"If clubs follow the footprint that has been set out for them then they can't go wrong. Of course clubs can make mistakes now and then and if that happens it's our job to address these issues straight away. If we can't then it moves to FFA level."

Diamataris also has the opportunity to take his matchday role to a higher level. He has applied, through FFA, to become an AFC match commissioner.

"I have worked with these people before at internationals and Champions League games and they are the be-all and end-all when it comes to making sure every single thing is absolutely spot-on.

"Australia already has a couple of AFC match commissioners which is a big vote of confidence in the way FFA is running the game.

"I'm really proud to be involved with the A-League and although no-one has ever said anything to me I take it as a pat on the back from FFA because I was involved with the old national league.

"The game has never been bigger or better. It's professionally run now and it's a privilege to play a part."

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With only two rounds remaining in the 2012 Nike V-League there was drama at both ends of the table as Round 21 saw some mouth-watering fixtures. Nike V-League pace setters Pascoe Vale FC as close to sealing their third Nike V-League premiership, while at the bottom of the ladder FC Elsternwick and FC Collingwood were fighting to avoid relegation.

Ashburton FC outlasts FC Essendon in a thriller!

Ashburton FC held on to record a victory after a lackluster performance, Big French target Sofiane Soufi opened the scoring after his effort was too hot for Essendon keeper Daniel Melo to handle. Andrea Farina then added a second for Ashburton and they looked set for victory, however Essendon keeper Daniel Melo right foot effort found its way through the crowd and into the back of the net to spark life into Essendon. Joyed by Melo's effort Essendon then applied the pressure but it was Nike V-League leading scorer Sofiane Soufi restored Ashburton's two-goal advantage with a long-range effort catching Melo off guard. FC Essendon then turned the game on its head scoring 3 quick goals via Philip Robtis, Michele Giotta and Richard Bales taking the match to 4-3 in their favour. Ashburton needed some inspiration and their captain Soufiane Soufi proved why he is a big game player as he recorded his hat-trick. The match looked destined to be locked at 4-4, but that man Soufi pin point pass found Matteo Rocca unmarked at the back post with 10seconds remaining to give Ashburton a dramatic winner and keep them in touch with the top 4.

"It was tough game to play in tonight as both teams played with no structure. We are all tired as its been a long and draining season and I feel we were a little more disciplined on the night and got lucky with snatch a late winner" Sofiane Soufi said post game

When asked about his own performance Soufi said "I didn't have the best of games tonight, but it's always nice to find the back of the net. I was just very happy when [Matteo] Rocca tapped home at the back post to give us the victory"

Ashburton FC 5 (Soufiane Soufi 3, Andrea Frina, Matteo Rocca) def. FC Essendon 4 (Daniel Melo, Philip Robtis, Michele Giotta, Richard Bales)

Getting down to the season's business end



Elsternwick FC coach John Nikolakoudis gives his team instructions during a time out during the Nike V-League round 21 match between FC Collingwood and Elsternwick FC.



FC Collingwood's Adam Orme cheeky back heel over Elsternwick FC keeper Jason during the Nike V-League round 21 match between FC Collingwood and Elsternwick FC.

Metropolitan's experience proves to strong for Albert Park

Metropolitan FC never got out of first gear in their clash against Albert Park. As Alexander Stevanovic lead the way for Metropolitan. Metropolitan lead 5-2 going into the break this enabled them cruise to victory with only Elisee Mutabazi and keeper Jamie Tran providing any resistance for Albert Park.

Metropolitan FC 6 (Alexander Stevanovic 2, Alija Radzepovic 3, Dino Radzepovic) def. Albert Park FC 2 (Elisee Mutabazi 2)

Pascoe Vale FC all but seal the deal against FC Prahran

Pascoe Vale knew a win would edge them closer to the third Nike V-League title, but FC Prahran with the return of Maxi Avram pushed the competition leaders and at half time Pascoe Vale only lead by a lone Mark Burton tap-in. In the Second half Pascoe Vale turned on the pressure and it took to midway through the second half for the floodgates to open, as Pascoe Vale went on charge to record 5 unanswered goals to edge them closer to the premiership.

Pascoe Vale 6 (Mark Burton 2, Kasra Majbouri, James Blackburn, Ernie Simsek, Dianoosh Rasoulzadah) def. FC Prahran 0

FC Balwyn come from behind to defeat CF Brunswick

FC Balwyn had been on a role in recent weeks but without their star

Robbie Zadworny they struggled to match the efforts that had seen them knock off league leaders Pascoe Vale. CF Brunswick on the other hand put on a great team performance with all players combining well to make it a great contest. CF Brunswick jumped to a 2-goal lead only for FC Balwyn to finish the stronger and take the 3 points with 3 minutes left on the clock.

FC Balwyn 3 (Mark Saric, Tony Saric, Tony Imeri) def. CF Brunswick 2 (Duke Duva, Ruz Roslan)

Vipers make going tough against Hume FC

Vic Vipers lead by FIFA Futsal World Cup bound Fernando de Moraes found the going tough in the first half against a spirited Hume side. Hume took the lead through Mohammed Tankir only for Vipers to score three quick goals by Jason Barrientos, Kui Mu and Futsalroo de Moraes to lead 3-1 at half time. The second half was more of the same from the Vipers as Hume were not going to roll over for the much-fancied Vipers. Vadim Mazursky gave Hume a glimmer of hope when he pulled it back to 3-2, only for Vipers to receive a controversial penalty decision that was dually put away by Adam Cooper to make 4-2. Tempers flared late on and Mohammed Tankir received his marching orders for Hume which killed any hope of a come back

Vic Vipers FC 4 (Jason Barrientos, Kui Mu, Fernando de Moraes, Adam Cooper pen.) def. Hume FC



Fernando de Moraes of Vic Vipers FC holds the ball up under pressure from Hume FC's Resit Culculuglu.

2 (Mohammed Tankir, Vadim Mazursky)

FC Collingwood will stay up in the top flight with high scoring win over FC Elsternwick

In match dubbed the battle of the wooden spoon this game had a bit of everything. The first half was full of goals with both teams just going on the attack. FC Elsternwick had the better of the first half and took a 4-3 lead into the break. In the second stanza Collingwood

took the game with some clinical finishing which gave them much-needed 3 points and ensure that their run in the top flight continues

FC Collingwood 11 (Habib Fleiful 5, Sascha Suesspeck 2, Alex Arrigen 2, Adam Orme, Fred Orozco) def. FC Elsternwick 8 (Zoran Ninkovic 3, Udit Dahwhan, Algorabi Mo, Adam Stacey, Kurt Marotta, Zoran Surdoski)

V-League Standings

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
11 Pascoe Vale FC	20	17	1	2	136	58	+78	52
2 Vic Vipers FC	20	14	4	2	102	60	+42	46
3 FC Balwyn	20	14	2	4	123	70	+53	44
4 Metropolitan FC	21	13	1	7	131	110	+21	40
5 Ashburton FC	21	12	1	8	116	110	+6	37
6 Hume FC	21	12	0	9	108	80	+28	36
7 FC Prahran	20	7	3	10	80	92	-12	24
8 FC Essendon	21	7	2	12	91	124	-33	23
9 CF Brunswick	20	7	1	12	78	95	-17	22
10 Albert Park FC	21	4	3	14	80	116	-36	15
11 FC Collingwood	20	3	0	17	71	124	-53	12
12 Elsternwick FC	21	3	0	18	92	169	-77	9

Round 21 RESULTS Wed 3rd Oct

- 6:30 Ashburton FC 5 - 4 FC Essendon
- 7:20 Albert Park FC 2 - 6 Metropolitan FC
- 8:10 FC Prahran 0 - 6 Pascoe Vale FC
- 9:00 FC Balwyn 2 - 4 CF Brunswick
- 9:50 Hume FC 2 - 4 Vic Vipers FC
- 10:40 FC Collingwood 11 - 8 Elsternwick FC

Round 22 CLASHES Wed 10th Oct

- 6:30pm - FC Collingwood vs. CF Brunswick
- 7:20pm - FC Prahran vs. FC Elsternwick
- 8:10pm - Metropolitan FC vs. Pascoe Vale FC
- 9:00pm - Vic Vipers FC vs. Albert Park FC
- 9:50pm - FC Essendon vs. FC Balwyn
- 10:40pm - Hume FC vs. Ashburton FC

Top Goal Scorers

Sofiane Soufi (Ashburton FC) - 46 Goals
Alexander Stevanovic (Metropolitan FC) - 34 Goals
Dino Redzepovic (Metropolitan FC) - 31 Goals
Ben Bodo (FC Balwyn) - 29 Goals
Joao Da Silva (Pascoe Vale) - 28 Goals
Alija Redzepovic (Metropolitan FC) - 27 Goals

The Futbol Town Show every Tuesday 7pm on C31 and C44Digital



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Goal! Weekly - Friday 5th October 2012

Babalj scores on debut; Holman impresses

By Damian Davies

The European leagues have certainly picked up over September with many of our players seeing action week in and week out. A few big names transferred to the Australian league, but not Australians. The destination of choice seems to be the Middle East at the moment. The Socceroos were in action, and the big European club competitions have moved out of the group stages.

Transfers

The exodus of young players off Australian shores continues as numerous players have turned up in England. A few loan deals have now been sorted and we go another month with the likes of **Kewell** and **Coe** yet to find a new club.

Additions/changes to database:-

Patrick Antelmi (15 Mar 1994) - transferred to Leeds United, England
Kearyn Baccus (5 Sep 1991) - loan to Perth Glory, Australia
Alex Brosque (12 Oct 1983) - transferred to Al Ain, U.A.E.
Jamie Coyne (2 Jan 1981) - transferred to Persib Bandung, Indonesia
Michael Cvetkovski (21 Nov 1987) - transferred to Rabotnicki, Macedonia
Christian Esposito (23 Jul 1990) - loan to ASD Valle D'Aosta, Italy
Andreas Govas (21 Jul 1989) - transferred to AEL Kalloni, Greece
Paul Katsetis (19 Jan 1996) - transferred to Catania, Italy
Billy Konstantinidis (21 Apr 1986) - loan to AEP Iraklis, Greece
Matthew Nemes (2 Apr 1987) - transferred to Droylsden FC, England
Robert Paratore (8 Nov 1995) - transferred to Leicester City, England
Callum Richardson (9 Nov 1995) - transferred to Burnley, England
Sean Rooney (1 Mar 1989) - transferred to Salgaocar FC, India
James Stojcevski (17 Sep 1995) - transferred to FC Astoria Walldorf, Germany

Removed from database:-
Tomislav Arcaba (FK BSK Borca) - unsigned
Nathan Coe (Sonderjyske) - unsigned
Dean Evans (Sham Shui Po) - unsigned
Vince Grella (Blackburn) - unsigned
Daniel Ireland (Coventry City)

Adelaide United's ACL dream ended
Adelaide United FC has suffered a heartbreaking Quarter Final exit in the 2012 AFC Champions League after a 3-2 extra time loss to Bunyodkor in the 2nd Leg at Tashkent's Jar Stadium.

After the scores were locked at 2-2 at the end of 90 minutes leaving the tie level at 4-4, it was eventually decided by a 114th minute goal from Alibobo Rakhmatullaev in the second period of extra time, giving Bunyodkor a 5-4 win on aggregate.



Tim Cahill moves to New York



Eli Bablj scores on debut for Red Star



Kofi Danning made his Belgian debut



Brett Holman impresses at Villa

-unsigned
Andy Rakic (FC Victoria Rosport) - unsigned
Paul Reid (Insee Police United) - transferred to Sydney FC
Jonathan Stynes (Kilmarnock) - unsigned
Nick Terezakis (Vicenza) - returned to Australia, unsigned
Joel Theissen (GPS Portland Phoenix) - unsigned

Club Level:-

England (Premiership) - **Mark Schwarzer** had a solid but not spectacular month in goals at Fulham, keeping one clean sheet and only conceding 1 goal in his other fixtures since returning from Socceroo duties. **Brett Holman** has been getting great minutes and has produced several MOM performances at Villa already, suggesting the transition to English football is going well. **Brad Jones** has remained on the bench at Liverpool but some shaky performances by Reina of late may see a call up as first choice for the Socceroo. **Chris Herd** is just returning from injury while **Adam Federici** hasn't been sighted for a month.

England (Championship) - **Mile Jedinak** (Crystal Palace) and **Shane Lowry** (Millwall) have been the Aussies to feature regularly at this level during September. **Scott McDonald** still can't get a look in at Middlesbrough. **Massimo Luongo** has been overlooked a little recently and will be looking to return to the starting eleven at Ipswich Town. Similar situation for Neil Kilkeny at Bristol City.

England (League One) - A very different story here with **Wesolowski**, **Cisak** and **Bouzanis** all getting starts at Oldham. Young **Bailey Wright** and **Shane Cansdell-Sheriff** seem to have the centre back positions to themselves most weeks.

England (League Two) - Both **Aaron Downes** (Torquay) and **James Meredith** (Braford City) have settled into their new clubs well and are permanent starters. **Jamie Young** has had a battle to be the number one gloveman at Aldershot, he is currently first choice.

Italy (Serie A) - **James Troisi** (Atalanta) is in the squad but not seeing much game time yet.

Germany (Bundesliga) - **Robbie Kruse** (Fortuna Dusseldorf) continues in the starting eleven. The other Aussie we hope to see make an impact is **Nikita Rukavytsya** who has just made his debut at Mainz 05.

Netherlands (Eredivisie) - all about the FC Utrecht boys this month with **Sarota** and **Oar** regularly getting starts. **Michael Zullo** has just returned from an injury lay off.

Scotland (Premier League) - **Ryan McGowan** continues to perform well at Hearts. His younger brother, **Dylan**, made his senior debut this month. Young keeper **Alex Baird** continues to gain experience from the bench at Dundee.

Young Socceroos Squad for Portugal
Qantas Young Socceroos Head Coach **Paul Okon** has selected a 23-player squad for the upcoming two international friendly matches against the the Portugal U-20 Men's National team in Lisbon on the 11 & 14 October 2012. Squad: Mustafa AMINI (Borussia Dortmund, Ger) Terry ANTONIS (Sydney FC), Alex BAIRD (gk), (Dundee FC, Scot) Joshua BRILLANTE (Jets), Corey BROWN (Roar), Reece CAIRA (Wanderers), Connor CHAPMAN (Jets), Travis COOPER (VVV Venlo, Netherlands), Ryan EDWARDS (Reading FC, Eng, Corey GAMEIRO (FC Eindhoven, Neth), Ben GARUCCIO (Heart), Jason GERIA (Roar), Jackson IRVINE (Celtic FC, Scot), Paul IZZO (gk) (Adelaide Utd), Liam JACOB (gk) (Oldham Athletic FC, Engl) Tom KING (Bristol City FC, Eng), Jamie MACLAREN (Blackburn Rovers, Eng) Hayden MORTON (Mariners), Luke O'DEA (Bentleigh Greens, VPL), Mitchell OXBORROW (Jets), Daniel PETKOVSKI (Sydney FC), Adam TAGGART (Jets), Ryan WILLIAMS (Fulham FC, Eng)

Croatia (1. HNL) - **Steve Lustica** (Hajduk) has been seeing some minutes off the bench, same goes for young striker **Tomi Juric** at NK Inter Zapresic.

Austria (Bundesliga) - **James Holland** is posting some great numbers this season, having now started all ten games for the season.

Serbia (Super Liga) - a first start for the season for **Matt Byrne** at Donji Siem and a debut goal for **Eli Babalj** (Red Star) means we need to keep an eye on this league.

Belgium (Second division) - former Brisbane Roar and Sydney FC player **Kofi Danning** has made his debut for CS Vise.

Ireland (Premier) - Twenty-one year old striker **Mark Griffin** now has seven goals in all competitions for Dundalk so far this season.

Ireland (First Division) - **Dylan Mernagh** (Waterford United) has continued his impressive season as his club now push for automatic promotion.

Iceland (1. Deild) - The run of starts has continued for **Chris Ross** (Vikingur Reykjavik) as they enter the winter break.

Qatar (Stars League) - debuts to both **Mark Bresciano** (Al Gharafa) and **Matt Spiranovic** (Al Arabi)

U.A. E. (UFL) - **Richard Porta** hasn't missed a beat scoring a brace on his debut for Dubai Club. Both **Lucas Neill** (Al Wasl) and

Nick Carle (Baniyas) have also debuted.

China (Super League) - the Aussies in China continue to see good minutes. Most notably **Jonas salley**, **Dino Djulbic**, **Joel Griffiths** and **Daniel Mullen**.

Japan (J- League) - not a lot to rave about here as **Jade North** faces relegation and **Josh Kennedy** has not scored since resuming from injury. Good to see him return to match fitness though.

Korea (K-League) - a good month for our Aussies as **Bosnar**, **Madaschi**, **McKay**, **Wilkinson**, **Cornthwaite** and **Devere** all seemingly cemented as starters at their respective club sides.

USA (MLS) - **Tim Cahill** hasn't missed a minute since his transfer to the Big Apple. **Andy Rose** has returned from injury at Seattle.

Injuries
Several key players remain in the medical rooms, namely **Rhys Williams**, **Carl Valeri** and **Matthew Leckie**. Not only has **Dylan Tombides** returned from injury, he also made his senior debut at West Ham. Congratulations on your return after a life threatening illness.

Club Competitions:-

Europe (UEFA Champions League)
Only Aussie interest was a bench place for **Mitch Langerak** as Dortmund beat Ajax 1-0 at home.

(UEFA Europa League) No Auss-

ies appeared.

Asia (AFC Cup) - **Andrew Barisic** (Arema) started both quarter finals but his team were unfortunately eliminated.

(Asian Champions League) - No Aussies appeared.

North America (CONCACF Champions League)
- **Andy Rose** (Seattle Sounders) started and provided an assist as his team remain undefeated in the group stages.

Reserves and Youth:-
Starting with NextGen, and several Aussies Abroad saw starts in **Jackson Irvine** (Celtic), **Giancarlo Gallifuoco** (Tottenham) and **Brad Smith** (Liverpool). Worth noting that Smith appeared for the England U21's during the month. In the new U21 League in England, a good dozen Aussies are featuring regularly. Several great performances, but **Inman** (Newcastle), **Fletcher** (Shef Wed) and **Antelmi** (Leeds) have been regulars on the scoring charts.

International level :- A commanding friendly performance against Lebanon seemed to give many people a false sense of security as we went down to Jordan in a WC qualifier. Also a little disappointing for the U19's as they could only manage third in their tournament in Vietnam.

Socceroo (capped) of the month

Playing for a club that is now in the top half of the Bundesliga is impressive, **Robbie Kruse** is playing every minute!! Not playing primarily as a goal scorer, the assists are coming, goals may not be far behind.

Under (uncapped) the radar
Although lowly placed still, **Shane Lowry** has not missed a minute for Millwall this campaign. Having earlier flirted with Ireland, cementing a club career may see him get a call from the Socceroos.

Young player (U21) of the month

In what seemed like a very long trial period, the performances of **Patrick Antelmi** saw him get his first professional contract at Leeds. He then celebrated by scoring a double in the U21's. Will be interesting to see if he can step up to the seniors where many an Aussihas befeen before at Leeds.

Heart NYL Team announced
Melbourne Heart is pleased to announce it is close to finalising its National Youth League squad for the 2012-13 season, with 15 squad places filled for the forthcoming campaign. Youth Squad: Will Abbott, Stipo Andrijasevic, Evan Batsis, Alastair Bray (Gk), Nicholas Epifano, Josh Groenewald, Ersin Kaya, Chris Maynard (Gk), Stefan Mauk, Andrew Mullett, Sam Mitchinson, Phil Petreski, Paulo Retre, Jeremy Walker,Zac Walker



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Latin Wrap

By Francis Fields

Runours rife at Boca Juniors

Welcome to another instalment of the Latin wrap where the beautiful game of football is covered from across the Americas.

So another year and with Brazil giants Corinthians already with a Copa Libertadores title, this second half of the year brings with it the Copa Sudamericana.

Current holders Universidad de Chile to defend their maiden crown.

Coach Jorge Sampaoli has set the team with sights to defend themselves in the most similar of fashion. They are in the Copa from the quarter final stages where they meet Ecuador giants Emelec whom Sampaoli knows very well having a coaching stint there.

For more updates and scores on thr Copa Sudamericana visit our website.

In Argentina, Newell's Old Boys lead at the top of the newly named Torneo Inicial.

On 19 points followed closely by Racing, Velez Sarsfield and Boca Juniors all on 17 it is looking to be yet another close season.

Defending champion Arsenal de Sarandí are on 11 points with gi-



Santos youngster Neymar stole the show at Santos.



Why the long face? Because rumours are rife that Boca Juniors coach Julio Cesar Falcioni could be on his way out.

ants River Plate are just above in mid table on 12.

At Boca, rumours are flowing about the departure of Julio Cesar Falcioni as manager.

Since losing the Copa Libertadores to Corinthians in the two leg series Juan Roman Riquelme decided to leave whilst stars Facundo Roncaglia opted for Fiorentina in Italy and Pablo Mouche to Turkey.

Life after Riquelme has been tough with former star Guillermo Barros Schelotto talking to Diario Ole of the possibility of taking the reigns.

The same applies to arch enemy River Plate. Manager Matias Almeyda is talking down of resigning as he holds a youthful squad together alongside French stalwart David Trézeguet.

Goalkeeper Marcelo Barovero and defender Leonardo Poncio are called up to the national team for its annual Clash of the Americas against Brazil in Resistencia. National boss Alejandro Sabella is looking to bolster his options for World Cup Qualifying for Brazil 2014.

The Clash of the Americas ignites passion and rivalry.

Brazil has had an interesting season with the flamboyant Brasileirão championship in full swing. Atlético Mineiro are topping the league with Ronaldinho still at his best. Copa Libertadores and league champions Corinthians are breathing down the neck. Internacional of Porto Alegre can claim Diego Forlan to their roster with Leandro Damiao but are looking to find form. Santos look in trouble despite clinching the Recopa Sudamericana last week beat Universidad de Chile.

Neymar still steals the show

however midfield dynamp Paulo Henrique Ganso has moved to city rivals Sao Paulo after much talk and publicity.

Finally a mention to the Chilean league derby between Universidad Católica and resurrected giants Colo Colo.

The two were coming distinct fortunes leading up with UC defeating Colombia's Deportes Tolima in Copa Sudamericana round of 16 action but losing their league fixture to Cobreloa 4-3 in a thriller.

Uruguayan coach Martin Lasarte

was in talk of crisis and it continues with a home loss to Colo Colo by 2-0.

The visitors were shaky and Católica should have buried the game by the first half. Two clear cut opportunities went begging.

Colo Colo made them pay with Carlos Muñoz opening the account and Gonzalo Fierro making it two from the penalty spot on 70 minutes.

A thrilling win for the visitors now five wins on the trot under Argentine Omar Labruna - son of River Plate legend Ángel Labruna.

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training wear, compression wear and off-field & training accessories and much more; Pelada has you cover.

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2012/13 A-LEAGUE SEASON BETTING PREVIEW

Before a ball has been kicked in anger, Sydney FC are the best backed team with online bookmaker sportsbet.com.au to take out the 2012/13 A-League title.

Champions Brisbane remain favourites at \$4.33, with Sydney FC (\$5.50), Melbourne Victory (\$5.50), Central Coast Mariners (\$8.00), Perth Glory (\$8.50) and Adelaide United rounding out the top six. The Wanderers remain the \$34 outsiders.

In Johnny Warren Medal winner betting, Thomas Broich and Marcos Flores have been installed as the \$5.50 favourites, with Italian superstar Alessandro Del Piero next at \$6.50 while the rest of the 'big three' are both in contention with Shinji Ono and Emile Heskey priced at \$11 and \$12 respectively.

"Sydney FC are the best backed side to win the league and that has been a direct result of signing Alessandro Del Piero, while interestingly the Newcastle Jets are the next best supported team at \$15," said sportsbet.com.au's Ben Hawes.

"There's also been strong support for Perth, who've firmed from \$10 into \$8.50 as a result, while we've seen more money for the Wanderers to win the title than for the Mariners and Wellington."

Markets courtesy of sportsbet.com.au

2012/13 A-League Grand Final winner

- \$4.33 Brisbane Roar
- \$5.50 Sydney FC
- \$5.50 Melbourne Victory
- \$8.00 Central Coast Mariners
- \$8.50 Perth Glory
- \$10 Adelaide United
- \$13 Wellington Phoenix
- \$15 Newcastle Jets
- \$15 Melbourne Heart
- \$34 Western Sydney

Johnny Warren Medal winner

- \$5.50 Thomas Broich, Marcos Flores
- \$6.50 Alessandro Del Piero
- \$8.00 Brett Emerton
- \$9.50 Mitch Nichols
- \$11 Besart Berisha, Shinji Ono
- \$12 Erik Paartalu, Shane Smeltz, Dario Vidosic, Nick Montgomery, Tomas Rogic, Archie Thompson, Emile Heskey

Others quoted Wooden Spoon

- \$2.25 Western Sydney
- \$4.33 Melbourne Heart
- \$6.00 Newcastle Jets
- \$12 Adelaide United, Wellington Phoenix
- \$15 Perth Glory
- \$21 Central Coast Mariners
- \$26 Sydney FC, Melbourne Victory
- \$36 Brisbane Roar

Top Six Finish

- \$1.17 Brisbane Roar
- \$1.28 Melbourne Victory
- \$1.28 Sydney FC
- \$1.30 Central Coast Mariners

- \$1.45 Perth Glory
- \$1.53 Wellington Phoenix
- \$1.53 Adelaide United
- \$1.83 Newcastle Jets
- \$1.91 Melbourne Heart
- \$3.00 Western Sydney

Top Goal Scorer

- \$7.00 Besart Berisha
- \$8.00 Shane Smeltz, Alessandro Del Piero
- \$9.50 Archie Thompson
- \$12 Sergio Van Dijk, Krunoslav Lovrek, Emile Heskey
- \$19 Dino Kresinger
- \$20 Josip Tadic
- \$21 Stein Huysegems, Marcos Flores, Jeremy Brockie
- \$23 Henrique, Paul Ifill, Joel Chianese
- \$26 Bernie Ibini-Isei

Top NSW Team

- \$2.10 Sydney FC
- \$2.50 Central Coast Mariners
- \$5.50 Newcastle Jets
- \$14 Western Sydney Wanderers

Best Of The Rest

- \$1.80 Brisbane Roar
- \$3.60 Perth Glory
- \$6.50 Adelaide United, Wellington Phoenix

Top Sydney Team

- \$1.16 Sydney FC
- \$4.65 Western Sydney Wanderers

Top Victorian Team

- \$1.36 Melbourne Victory
- \$3.00 Melbourne Heart



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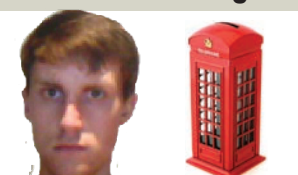
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London Calling



By Simon Pearson

Anticipation. Excitement. Intrigue. Queens Park Rangers fans, as well as neutrals, were all eager to see what the London club would serve up this season.

After surviving on the final day of the 2011/12 campaign, despite famously losing 3-2 at Manchester City in the last minute - "Agueoooooooo!" - club chairman Tony Fernandes sanctioned something of a spending spree. The outlay might not have matched the enormous heights of Chelsea, who spent £80m this summer, but, nevertheless, it signalled real intent from QPR. In total, £23.2m was spent during the off-season, as eleven players arrived, or, in midfielder Samba Diakite's case, returned - the Malian international spent four months on loan at Loftus Road last season. Five of those eleven might have been free transfers, including Champions League winners Julio Cesar (Inter) and Jose Bosingwa (Chelsea), but given the quality of the new faces, Fernandes and the fans were right to expect a promising start. But it's begun anything but promising.



New-look QPR make worst ever start

Bottom of the EPL table and still looking to find their first win after 6 rounds, the Super Hoops aren't quite living up to their name just yet this season.

After six games QPR are bottom of the league with two points. Four defeats and two draws mean the club have made their worst ever start to a Premier League campaign, which was inimitably introduced in 1992. Sure, the 'West London' outfit have only participated in 6 of the 21 Premier League seasons - 1992-96 & 2011-present - but it still makes for uncomfortable reading. Mon-

day evening's London derby with in-form West Ham was targeted by Mark Hughes, the QPR coach who was appointed in January earlier this year, as a vital game which the Hoops could use to get their season up and running. Instead, disaster struck. After just three minutes, Hughes' men were behind, Matt Jarvis with a back-post header, and ten minutes be-

fore the break, it was two, Ricardo Vaz Te with a volley. Cesar, in goal ahead of England international Roberto Green, was questionable on both strikes. The 2009-10 treble winner with Jose Mourinho's Inter did pull off a fine save late on, and was impressive in one of the club's better results this year, the 0-0 with Chelsea last month, but his huge wages and serious

decline in form since a car accident two years ago, make you wonder why QPR brought him in anyway. Enigmatic midfielder Adel Taarabt scored a golazo after coming on as a second-half substitute, but it was too little, too late. Other sub Diakite was sent off after just 19 minutes, making matters worse, and Hughes admitted his side weren't at the races.

"We were very poor," the former Wales and Manchester City boss told the media post-match. The 5-0 spanking QPR took from Swansea on the opening day certainly appears a catalyst for the club's horrific start. It's not just in the top-flight where the side are struggling, either, last week, QPR were knocked out of the league cup, at home to relegation favorites Reading, too. And, as ever in these situations, the outlook appears worrying. The club's next three league fixtures read: West Brom (a) Everton (h) Arsenal (a). West Brom are one of the surprise packages thus far, in sparkling form under new coach Steve Clarke, Everton are enjoying their best start to a season in almost a decade, and Arsenal at the Emirates is hardly a game to look forward to when in such lousy form. Throw in the fact QPR haven't won away from home in the league since November last year and the club have a severe defensive injury crisis, and you'd probably forgive Hughes for packing it all in.

Fernandes insisted the manager's position was safe shortly after Monday's defeat, revealing he

is "confident and relaxed" about the scenario. "Six games does not make a season," the man dubbed "Asia's Sir Richard Branson" continued. In a lot of ways, he's right. What good would sacking Hughes now do? Especially when so many players are currently unavailable. The frustration should be with the players, if anything. Forwards Djibril Cisse and Bobby Zamora have just 11 goals in 33 games between them since signing for the club - the former still without a league goal this season - whilst the lack of effect Ji-Sung Park has had since arriving from Manchester United for £2m can't be pinned on Hughes, even if the boss' decision to hand him the captaincy did seem slightly odd. Though, regular Premier League viewers will take Fernandes' quotes - made via his twitter account, no less - with a pinch of salt. And when you see that Hughes has now won only 4 of his 24 league games since replacing Neil Warnock, you understand why bookmakers have lowered the odds on Harry Redknapp - sacked by Tottenham in June - taking over. Coincidentally, should QPR lose to West Brom and Everton, and Fernandes replace Hughes with Redknapp, "Harry" would be arriving at a side with just "two points from eight games". Ring any bells?

Fernandes might be telling everyone to stay "calm", but another defeat on Saturday, and the media speculation surrounding Hughes' future will only increase.



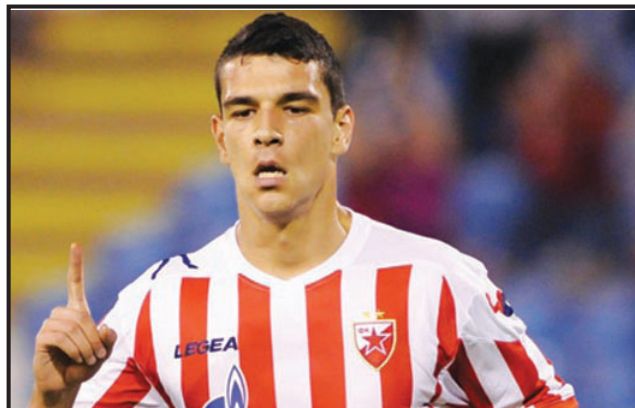
By Alex Milic

Serbia
Red Star Belgrade is the leader of the Serbian Super-Liga following seven rounds of football, one point ahead of arch rivals Partizan and two points more than third placed FK Rad.

It was a turbulent start to the season for the 'Red and Whites' with the departure of club legend and manager Robert Prosinecki who has since been replaced by former Bonnyrigg White Eagles (AVALA) player Aleksandar Jankovic who is also the manager of the Serbia U21 side.

Jankovic has done a fantastic job since taking over the reigns, the former European Champions have won six of their seven matches and was very unlucky to be knocked out of the Europa League with a last minute goal by Bordeaux.

There is even more interest in the Serbian League for football lovers down under with the historical and successful club signing Melbourne Heart young ace Eli Babalj at the start of the season. Babalj has been much talked about in the Serbian media following his training bust with Asamoah, but the youngster is back on the right track scoring his first goal for the club he supported as a child, in a 3:1 win over Smederevo.



Eli Babalj

Babalj has predominantly as a substitute, with fellow new signing Ognjen Mudrinski in top form, the Serbia U21 international score a hat-trick on his debut and is the number one choice up front along with Luka Milunovic.

In Round 8, Partizan takes on mid-table Javor who lost to Red Star midweek 2:1 and will be looking to bounce back as they look to take a point from Belgrade while Red Star welcomes struggling Spartak Subotica to the 'Marakana'. Babalj is not the only Aussie in the Serbian League with Matthew Byrne wearing the colours of newly promoted Donji Srem who defeated the defending champions Partizan in the opening rounds of the season, Donji Srem has picked up an impressive ten points from the first seven matches.

Serbia was the latest association to make invaluable use of the UEFA Football Doctor Education Program and pass on vital medical knowledge and expertise to help its medical staff fulfil a crucial role.

A successful FDEP course took

place recently at the Sport Centre of the Football Association of Serbia (FSS) in Stara Pazova. The course centred on the emergency treatment of players, with 16 national team doctors and eight physiotherapists in attendance.

The six course presenters all had an advanced life support qualification issued by the European Resuscitation Council. Two of them were cardiologists, one a cardiothoracic surgeon and three emergency physicians. All the candidates passed the written examination and practical part of the workshop - comprising the use of cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), automated external defibrillators (AED) and on-field stabilisation techniques: log roll, spinal board and neck braces. "All the participants welcomed the high standard of the course and training equipment, and there was considerable gratitude to UEFA for its assistance with the medical equipment necessary for organising the event," said course leader and cardiologist Dr Emilija Nestorovic.

UEFA Champions League Wrap

Group A

Porto have taken control of Group A in the Champions League after a 1-0 win over Paris Saint-Germain on Wednesday.

Vitor Pereira's side dominated at home but had to wait until seven minutes from time to secure three points thanks to a magnificent finish from James Rodriguez.

The victory helped the Liga Sagres champions move three points clear of PSG atop the group, while Dynamo Kiev are third after their win over Dinamo Zagreb. Meanwhile, Dynamo Kiev got back to winning ways in Europe after beating Dinamo Zagreb 2-0 at the Olympic Stadium.

The Ukrainians were taken apart 4-1 by Paris Saint Germain on the opening matchday, but there were no signs of such a score-line repeating itself as they dominated from start to finish.

Oleh Husyev headed the home side into a third-minute lead, before an own goal from Josip Pivacic ended the challenge of the Croatian visitors after 33 minutes.

Group B

Arsenal took another step towards the knockout stages of the Champions League with a stuttering 3-1 home victory over Olympiakos.

Lukas Podolski and substitute Aaron Ramsey struck in the second-half to brighten up a largely uninspiring display from Arsene Wenger's side in the Group B encounter on Wednesday.

The win leaves Arsenal with six points from their opening two outings and on course for another comfortable qualification for the second round of Europe's elite club competition.

Elsewhere, Schalke were left to rue a succession of missed chances as Montpellier came from behind to salvage a 2-2 draw.

Karim Ait-Fana opened the floodgates early in the first half, before Florian Drax-

ler restored parity and earned a penalty for the Bundesliga outfit, which Klaas-Jan Huntelaar converted. However, Souleymane Camara finished clinically late on as the teams shared the spoils in a free-flowing contest at Veltins Arena.

Group C

AC Milan edged Zenit St Petersburg 3-2 in an enthralling Champions League encounter in Russia on Wednesday. Massimiliano Allegri's men made a great start and were up 2-0 in the space of three first-half minutes through Urby Emanuelson and Stephan El Shaarawy.

However, Hulk dragged Zenit back into the game with a fine strike just before the break before then setting up Roman Shirokov for the equaliser early in the second half.

Milan were not done, though, and they snatched a precious win courtesy of an unfortunate own goal by Tomas Hubocan that condemned Zenit to a first home defeat in UEFA competition since September 2008.

Malaga made it two wins from two in Group C of the Champions League with a scintillating 3-0 victory over an outclassed Anderlecht.

Group D

A late Mario Balotelli penalty helped Manchester City secure an unconvincing 1-1 draw at home to Borussia Dortmund on Wednesday.

Roberto Mancini cut a frustrated figure at Etihad Stadium as City needed an 89th-minute Balotelli spot-kick to earn a point in the Champions League encounter.

Substitute Balotelli, who had only been on the pitch for eight minutes, coolly slid home a penalty after Neven Subotic had been harshly penalised for handballing a David Silva volley.

Real Madrid recorded a 4-1 victory over

ABC Radio signs up for Hyundai A-League 2012/13 Season

Football Federation Australia (FFA) and ABC Radio have today announced a partnership which will give the Hyundai A-League 2012/13 Season a significant national radio presence.

Under the new agreement, ABC Radio will cover matches across its many platforms, including ABC Local Radio, ABC Grandstand Digital Radio, the ABC Radio App and online simulcast with the FFA digital platforms.

The partnership will also see greater sharing of content and regular appearances of players and coaches on ABC Radio Grandstand's football focused programs, including Francis Leach's 'Top of the League' and the 'A-League Lounge' hosted by Ned Hall and Steve Pearce.

All five matches in this weekend's opening round will be broadcast by ABC and will be streamed via the Hyundai A-League match centre at www.a-league.com.au.

Ajax in the other Group D encounter as Cristiano Ronaldo netted a hat-trick at Amsterdam Arena.

The visitors deservedly went 1-0 up in the 42nd minute when Ronaldo found the net from close range, before Karim Benzema made it two shortly after the break with a fantastic overhead effort. Niklas Moisander pegged one back after a corner only minutes later, only to see Ronaldo restore Madrid's two-goal lead with a well-placed effort. Shortly after, the Portugal star got his hat-trick with yet another fine finish as Real completed a comfortable win.

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EPL

Wrap

By Simon Pearson

Derby win keeps Chelsea on top

Chelsea faced a stern test at the Emirates against a dynamic Arsenal. John Terry played but soon will begin his four-match ban (pending appeal) imposed by the FA after being found guilty of racially abusing QPR's Anton Ferdinand.

Torres hooked in a Mata delivery with precision.

Gervino scored an equally intelligent goal to equalise, controlling a dangerous cross, swivelling and lashing the ball home.

Cech made two sublime saves, helping his team to the points at the finale. Juan Mata's dangerous free kick ghosted into the Arsenal net via a faint nudge.

Everton moved into second with an excellent win at Goodison. The Toffees were sublime.

Southampton quicker off the blocks got in front. Record signing Gaston Ramirez powered in a header.

The lead didn't last. Mirallas fizzed in a cross, the keeper parried, Osman smacked in a composed equaliser.Mirallas created more havoc, crossing for Jelavic to finish.

Almost immediately, youngster Seamus Coleman burst down the flank -tricked his marker and crossed for Jelavic to head home the decisive third.

Manchester City not yet at their fluent best but sound enough to grab a win at Craven cottage to beat Fulham after going down early in the match to a dubious penalty decision. Petric converted.



Chelsea's Fernando Torres celebrates scoring against Arsenal.

Aguero poached the equaliser before super sub Edin Dzeko thumped a late winner.

Liverpool finally got a win and in style, hammering five past Norwich.

Suarez netted a hat-trick. Goals from Sahin and Gerrard completed the rout. Morrison and Holt replied for the Canaries but it was scant reward.

A thriller second half saw Reading and Newcastle share the spoils in a two all draw.Kebe and Hunt scored for the Royals.Demba Ba scored a brace. His first was outstanding, watching the ball drop out of the sky before volleying into the roof of the net. His second however was rather fortunate, he glanced a header onto his own hand before it crossed the line.Ba and the manager Pardew both acknowledging their good fortune.

Good news for Crouch and Stoke. The lanky striker bagged a first half double to earn their first win of the season. The Potters are now ten games without defeat at home. Swansea City on the other hand is with three defeats on the trot, their cracking start to the season appears to be unfolding.

Steven Fletcher helped himself to his fifth goal in four games. Sunderland converted.

land a first league wins this season. In fairness to Wigan, they were the better side in the first half and a disputable sending off early in the second half seemed to derail them. Jordi Gomez adjudged to have made a violent tackle on Danny Rose, allowing the Black Cats more space to play than previously enjoyed.

The pick of Saturday's football had to be Tottenham Hotspur's win at Old Trafford. They took a fabulous two nil lead into the half time interval. Goals from Vertonghen and Bale helping the half time tea taste sweeter than normal.

As expected, United surged forward in the second period. Then, in an incredible three minutes, Nani grabbed a goal back for United; Dempsey restored the lead for Spurs-Kagawa made it 2-3.The red devils found the woodwork twice but the score did not alter. Spurs ended a 23 year hoodoo of not winning at Old Trafford.No wonder the grins were as wide as the river Thames on Tottenham faces at the final whistle.

QPR v West Ham United promised another tasty London derby. The Irons were on the score sheet before the blue and white hoops had warmed up properly, Matt Jarvis with a header after three minutes.

ENGLAND EPL



Last5games
Most recent first

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	
1 Chelsea	6	5	1	0	11	3	+8	16	WWDWW
2 Everton	6	4	1	1	12	6	+6	13	WWDWL
3 Manchester United	6	4	0	2	14	9	+5	12	LWWWW
4 Manchester City	6	3	3	0	12	8	+4	12	WDDWD
5 Tottenham Hotspur	6	3	2	1	11	8	+3	11	WWWDD
6 West Bromwich ...	6	3	2	1	8	5	+3	11	DWLWD
7 West Ham United	6	3	2	1	7	5	+2	11	WDDWL
8 Arsenal	6	2	3	1	10	4	+6	9	LDWWD
9 Fulham	6	3	0	3	13	9	+4	9	LWWLL
10 Newcastle United	6	2	3	1	8	8	+0	9	DWDDL
11 Swansea City	6	2	1	3	10	9	+1	7	LLDWW
12 Stoke City	6	1	4	1	6	5	+1	7	WLDDD
13 Sunderland	5	1	4	0	5	4	+1	7	WDDDD
14 Liverpool	6	1	2	3	9	12	-3	5	WLDDD
15 Aston Villa	6	1	2	3	6	10	-4	5	DLWDL
16 Wigan Athletic	6	1	1	4	5	11	-6	4	LLDWW
17 Southampton	6	1	0	5	10	18	-8	3	LWLLL
18 Norwich City	6	0	3	3	4	13	-9	3	LLDDD
19 Reading	5	0	2	3	6	11	-5	2	DLDDD
20 Queens Park Ra...	6	0	2	4	4	13	-9	2	LLDLD

It got worse for the home side languishing at the foot of the table when Ricardo Vaz Te poked home a second goal.

QPR brought on mercurial talisman Adel Taraabt; he scored within two minutes but his creative vision was not enough in a labour intensive dog fight of a match.

Yellow cards littered the air and for Samba Diakite a red one. He left the field 20 minutes after coming on as sub.

It's looking good for West Ham at this stage, but not so for QPR.

EPL PREVIEW:
Mind game perhaps? Sergio Aguero Manchester City's hot shot striker says English players get favourable treatment from referees. Martin O Neil's visiting Sunderland is predominantly British-go figure.

City will need to keep Fletcher quiet, if they do, then its unlikely Sunderland will come away from the Etihad with anything. Fletcher has scored all of Sunderland's league goals so far, earning himself a call up to the Scotland national squad. Manchester however face Borussia Dortmund mid week at home in the Champions league and may have one or two tired legs in need

of a quick recovery for the league match.

Chelsea head to Denmark for their mid week CL encounter. They face FC Nordsjaelland before a struggling Norwich visit the bridge. It's difficult to see how the Canaries can cause an upset against the blues though given their form.

Arsenal potentially faces two bruising encounters. Firstly, at home against a high energy Olympiacos in the CL, then West Ham away for a feisty derby game.

A massive plus for Arsene Wenger is the return of Jack Wilshire and Emmanuele Frimpong although it is highly doubtful he will throw either of them into the mix until they have had more match time in reserve games.Diaby and Arteta are currently injured.

Everton head away to Wigan on Saturday. Merseyside is beginning to have a much better time of late. Everton are flying high, Kevin Sheedy the ex Toffee midfielder was also given the all clear after successful bowel cancer surgery, and of course Liverpool had a resounding win not only in the football but also by winning the JFT96 case. Wigan faces a quality side at a bad time but they can play some good stuff too and won't be lying down.

Fulham may fancy their chances to grab points at Southampton.

However; they are not the best travellers. Martin Jol has lost key players Dempsey and Demebele sold to London rivals Spurs. Murphy sold too.

The Saints defender Danny Fox received a call up to the Scotland squad to face Wales and Belgium in their world cup qualifying campaign.

Southampton has the second worst goal difference in the division and just three points at this stage.

Newcastle and Man U.both have European adventures mid week before they clash at St. James Park.

Spurs head to Greece to face Panathinaikos before they face Aston Villa at the lane.

QPR travel to the Hawthorns to play a tough Baggies side. The words sack and Hughes, already, appearing in the same sentence. QPR need points soon.

Swansea plays at home to Reading." I am not worried but I am concerned" said swans defender Williams. Neither team scoring many goals but conceding plenty of late. Liverpool has two tough physical battles with Udinese then Stoke. Both games with the home advantage at least.

London Eye




By Eddie Gray

In every transfer window there is always speculation, sales and purchases and this summer was no different.

After such a dramatic climax to last season there was no surprise to see every club in the top division attempt to strengthen their squads, some more successfully than others.

With the domestic campaign now well underway it provides the perfect time to analyse which of the league title contenders have bought wisely, and which have not been as clever with their purchases.

The most high profile transfer of the summer was Robin Van Perise's move from Arsenal to Manchester United.

United forked out a huge £24 million for the front man, an expensive fee for the striker when you consider his injury record and his contract status at Arsenal.

But with Van Persie you are guaranteed goals and that is what the Red Devils knew they were getting.

Having walked away with the golden boot last year, notching a mighty 30 goals, the Dutchman arrived with great pedigree and unlike some, took no time in getting adapting to life at Old Trafford, grabbing a hat-trick against newly promoted Southampton to single handily win the game as well as netting in wins against Fulham and Liverpool.

Robert Van Persie broke Arsenal hearts when he put pen to paper with the Red Devils.



Summer

Transfers

Windows

against League One side Coventry. It appears at this stage that Giroud is a confidence player who relies on being in the perfect frame of mind to excel in front of goal, something that he may not get time to achieve, especially as Arsenal look genuine title contenders this campaign.

Across London it was once again a heavy spending summer for Chelsea.

Billionaire owner Roman Abramovich splashed the cash on improving his Champions League winning side, most notably on Eden Hazard and Brazilian youngster Oscar. Hazard chose the Stamford Bridge outfit after a protracted transfer saga where he flirted with both Manchester clubs and Tottenham before eventually choosing the Blues. With the ink still wet on his rumoured £170,000 a week contract, the Belgian was thrust into the lime-

light and has thrived ever since. The former Lille star has been deployed mainly behind the striker in his brief stint at the Bridge, picking up a goal and six assists to show what he can do when he is played in his desired position.

Players like Hazard are few and far between, hence the demand for his signature, and with his pace, vision and composure in the final third it looks like Hazard will be a star for Chelsea and the Premier League for many years to come.

The London club also brought in attacking midfielder Oscar in a bid to improve their fortunes going forward as well as to try and spark some life into the out of form Fernando Torres.

The Brazilian has not been an automatic starter with boss Roberto Di Matteo, who has chosen to introduce the young starlet gradually as

he adapts to the pace of the Premier League.

But in the Champions League Oscar has featured more frequently and against Juventus he showed the world what he can do when given the chance.

In Bergkamp-like style the Chelsea man flicked the ball past two opponents before curling the ball wonderfully into the top corner past the despairing Gianluigi Buffon.

If Oscar can repeat that sort of effort on a regular basis then, despite his hefty £20-25 million fee, the 21 year old will be a crucial player in Chelsea's future.

But it will take time to see if he can adapt to the rigours of the Premier League and the constant demand for trophies that he will be under at the London club.

Finally the Champions, Manchester City, who for the first time are in the

position of having to strengthen if they wanted to stay at the top of the pile.

The Citizens recruited Scott Sinclair, Jack Rodwell, Javi Garcia and Maicon as Roberto Mancini planned his assault on another Premier League title.

The signings of Sinclair and Rodwell appeared odd to start with when you consider the amount of star quality City have, meaning playing time may have been at a premium.

Nevertheless, both have made more appearances than many thought they would and in Rodwell's case have shown the talent and desire needed to compete with the likes of Yaya Toure and Gareth Barry.

Garcia has also strengthened the options Mancini has in the centre of the park which has allowed him to play Toure in a more advanced position where he is arguably at his most effective.

Maicon on the other hand looks to be a strange piece of business.

The Brazilian, who is now 31, has looked off the pace defensively, opting to position himself square on to attackers leaving him vulnerable in behind against quick opponents, something he will come across frequently in English football.

All the top four have mostly strengthened their squads well and look set to improve on their points totals last year.

With the guile of Hazard and Cazorla, the midfield strength of City and the added fire power of Van Perise at United the Premier League may be even more tightly contested than last season.

A scary thought when the title was decided with the last kick of the season last campaign.



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Wrap Italia

By Luca Cetta

Juve crush Roma, Napoli keeps pace

Juventus cruised to victory over Roma following a perfect first half, while Napoli kept pace in Genoa. Milan slipped up again as city rivals Inter claimed a home ahead of their first meeting this weekend. Meanwhile, Chievo and Cagliari both made coaching changes.

14 years is a long time in football. You would be hard pressed to find many players still representing the same club as in 1998. Coaches lasting that long is an even rarer occurrence. In 1998 as Roma boss, Zdenek Zeman accused Juventus of doping. It started a trial against the Turin club and a long-running feud. In May, the Czech tactician returned to the Stadio Olimpico after leading Pescara to Serie A promotion. The barbs between Zeman and Juve never stopped and only intensified after Zeman's return. He continues to be critical of the Bianconeri, who prolong the disputes. When former Juve player Ciro Ferrara led Sampdoria to Rome last week, he refused to shake Zeman's hand pre-game.

On Saturday, Zeman made his first trip to Turin since 2006 and as expected, was greeted to a frosty Juventus Stadium welcome. Known for his attacking football with rapid, vertical possession, Zeman's Giallorossi outfit have made an incon-



Alessandro who? Juve show signs of overcoming Del Piero's departure with a 4-1 romp over Roma to keep it top of the table.

sistent start to the campaign.

They were blown away in the first half and down 3-0 after 20 minutes. Andrea Pirlo, Arturo Vidal and Alessandro Matri all netted, while Claudio Marchisio and Mirko Vucinic struck the woodwork. Pablo Osvaldo scored a consolation from the spot in the 70th minute, but in injury time Sebastian Giovinco added a fourth.

While Juve defender Andrea Barzagli said they "have even more belief than last season", Roma director Walter Sabatini went as far as to claim some Roma players do not deserve to wear the shirt. Napoli have been dubbed the 'anti-Juve' - the club most likely to take the Scudetto fight to the champions. They followed their midweek win over Lazio with a gritty 1-0 win away at Sampdoria, who had also started the season strongly. The hosts had the better of the match, but a controversial Marek Hamsik penalty was converted by Edinson Cavani to see Napoli join Juventus

on 16 points.

With their summer issues exacerbated by a poor start to the campaign, Milan found the going tough in Parma. In driving rain, Stephan El Shaarawy gave the Rossoneri a second half lead, only for Daniele Galloppa to equalise. Massimiliano Allegri's side are already nine points off the pace.

Meanwhile, Inter confirmed the end of the 'San Siro curse' with a 2-1 win over Fiorentina. Neither Inter nor Milan had won at home this season in all competitions until the Rossoneri defeated Cagliari last week. The Nerazzurri gained their first victory on the now partially synthetic turf against the impressive Viola. Goals from Diego Milito and Antonio Cassano was enough to see them move to third.

Lazio bounced back from consecutive defeats with a home victory over Siena. The Robur had defeated Inter and Bologna in the past week to eradicate their points deduction caused by the summer

ITALY Serie A																			
		P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games	Most recent first								
1	Juventus	6	5	1	0	15	3	+12	16	WDWWW									
2	Napoli	6	5	1	0	12	2	+10	16	WWDWW									
3	Internazionale	6	4	0	2	10	6	+4	12	WWLWL									
4	Lazio	6	4	0	2	9	6	+3	12	WLLWW									
5	Sampdoria	6	3	2	1	8	6	+2	10	LDDWW									
6	Torino	6	2	3	1	9	4	+5	8	WDDLW									
7	Roma	6	2	2	2	12	11	+1	8	LDWLW									
8	Fiorentina	6	2	2	2	7	6	+1	8	LDDWL									
9	Genoa	6	2	2	2	7	7	+0	8	DDWLL									
10	Catania	6	2	2	2	7	11	-4	8	LWDLW									
11	Milan	6	2	1	3	7	6	+1	7	DWLLW									
12	Bologna	6	2	1	3	9	9	+0	7	WLDWL									
13	Pescara	6	2	1	3	6	11	-5	7	WWDLL									
14	Parma	6	1	3	2	6	8	-2	6	DDDLW									
15	Udinese	6	1	3	2	6	9	-3	6	DDWDL									
16	Atalanta	6	2	1	3	5	9	-4	5	LLWWD									
17	Palermo	6	1	1	4	5	10	-5	4	WLDDL									
18	Chievo	6	1	0	5	4	13	-9	3	LLLLL									
19	Siena	6	2	2	2	7	6	+1	2	LWDDL									
20	Cagliari	6	0	2	4	3	11	-8	2	LLDDL									

betting scandal, but goals from Ederson and Cristian Ledesma got the Biancocelesti back on track.

Elsewhere, Fabrizio Miccoli scored a wonderful hat-trick, complete with a free kick, solo effort and incredible 50 meter volley as Palermo defeated Chievo 4-1. Gialloblu Coach Domenico Di Carlo was sacked on Tuesday. Torino blew Atalanta away after falling behind in the first half. A second half blitz ensured a 5-1 win.

Alberto Gilardino continued his fine start to life at Bologna with a brace in their 4-0 thumping of Catania, while Pescara sustained their recent revival by claiming a 2-1 win in Cagliari. The result cost Massimo Ficcadenti his job. Cagliari released a statement claiming his departure was by mutual consent, with former Rossoblu player Ivo Pulga now in charge. Youth Coach and former Cagliari stalwart Diego Lopez was expected to take over but does not yet have the required coaching badges and is therefore Pulga's as-

sistant. Udinese and Genoa played out a 0-0 stalemate, with the big news emerging that talisman Antonio Di Natale was dropped from the Zebrette line-up after a row with Coach Francesco Guidolin.

After their midweek European excursions, Milan and Inter are preparing to battle in the first big derby of the season. A win for the Rossoneri will give them a great deal of confidence after a difficult few months, while also taking Allegri's head off the metaphorical chopping block. Inter will look to keep the gap to the top two close.

Juventus are aiming to improve on their European draw Shakhtar Donetsk when they pay a visit to second-to-bottom Siena. The Tuscans were deducted six points, so their season results are better than what the table suggests. Meanwhile, Napoli will seek to keep pace at home to Udinese, with both having featured in the Europa League on Thursday. Di Natale is set to return for this clash.

Fiorentina are aiming to bounce back from their San Siro defeat and continue their impressive start to the campaign when they welcome Bologna to the Stadio Artemio Franchi. Vladimir Petkovic takes his Lazio side to Pescara, who have picked up seven points in their past three matches. Wounded duo Roma and Atalanta meet at the Stadio Olimpico. Current and former Giallorossi players, as well as officials, have called for patience and a lowering of season expectations.

Torino want to keep the momentum gained in Bergamo going when they host bottom side Cagliari, as mid-table Catania and Parma clash. New Chievo boss Eugenio Corini - the former club captain - takes over after five consecutive defeats following their opening day triumph. They welcome a Sampdoria outfit still smarting from their weekend loss. Finally, Gian Piero Gasperini faces his old club as he takes a resurgent Palermo to Genoa.



Viva Espana

By Pepe Lopez

ESPN Drops La Liga Bombshell on Australian Viewers

As the 2012/13 La Liga season began on the 19th of August, Foxtel's official web-site was still advertising iconic players Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo, with "Spanish La Liga" featuring amongst its list of covered football leagues.

The harsh reality of the situation is that ESPN Australia/NZ no longer had the rights and or intention to continue covering the Spanish La Liga, without even informing Foxtel, ESPN's carrier network in Australia. The root cause of the situation stems back toward ESPN in America being outbid by Qatari media company Al Jazeera for the US La Liga TV rights. Al Jazeera News Service is car-



La Liga fans will no doubt be treated to another axplosive El Classico clash.

ried by Foxtel, as a result of the recent Foxtel acquisition of Austar, and brief highlights of La Liga matches do appear during the sport content of the Al Jazeera's international news hour program. However, this is a good as it now gets for Australian viewers, as Al Jazeera's Sports channels are not currently carried by any Australian Television service provider.

Despite ESPN still providing La Liga coverage in India and Bangladesh, ESPN Australia/NZ did not believe their Australian La Liga audience size warranted a special Australian La Liga service. The back-

lash on ESPN Australia/NZ's Facebook page evidently will see the company review this decision at some stage in the near future. Even ESPN's Australian born commentator and TV show host, Andrew Orsatti tweeted on the situation; "Australian football fans constantly asking me about no La Liga or Serie on TV, perhaps you should move abroad. Only solution I can offer".

Italian Serie A viewers face similar difficulties getting access to TV coverage, though Australian viewers can still see a broadcast of Serie A matches via Rai International, for an ad-

SPAIN La Liga																			
		P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games	Most recent first								
1	Barcelona	6	6	0	0	17	5	+12	18	WWWWW									
2	Atlético Madrid	6	5	1	0	16	7	+9	16	WWWWW									
3	Málaga	6	4	2	0	10	2	+8	14	WDWWD									
4	Sevilla	6	3	2	1	8	5	+3	11	LWWDD									
5	Mallorca	6	3	2	1	7	4	+3	11	LWDWD									
6	Real Madrid	6	3	1	2	12	5	+7	10	WWLWL									
7	Real Valladolid	6	3	0	3	10	6	+4	9	WLLLL									
8	Real Sociedad	6	3	0	3	8	9	-1	9	WLWLW									
9	Real Betis	6	3	0	3	10	13	-3	9	LLWWL									
10	Valencia	6	2	2	2	8	8	+0	8	WLWLD									
11	Getafe	6	2	1	3	7	10	-3	7	WLLDW									
12	Levante	6	2	1	3	7	13	-6	7	LWLWL									
13	Rayo Vallecano	6	2	1	3	7	13	-6	7	LLLDW									
14	Celta de Vigo	6	2	0	4	7	8	-1	6	LWLWL									
15	Real Zaragoza	6	2	0	4	5	8	-3	6	LWLLW									
16	Deportivo La C...	6	1	3	2	8	12	-4	6	LLDDD									
17	Granada	6	1	2	3	4	9	-5	5	WLDDL									
18	Athletic Club	6	1	2	3	8	14	-6	5	LDDWL									
19	Osasuna	6	1	1	4	7	10	-3	4	WLDLL									
20	Espanyol	6	0	1	5	7	12	-5	1	LLDLL									

Latest Results		This Week	
Valencia 2 - 0 Real Zaragoza		Celta de Vigo v Sevilla	
Málaga 4 - 0 Real Betis		Vallecano v Deportivo	
R Sociedad 2 - 0 Athletic Club		R Zaragoza v Getafe	
Sevilla 2 - 3 Barcelona		R Valladolid v Espanyol	
Granada 2 - 1 Celta de Vigo		R Betis v R Sociedad	
Valladolid 6 - 1 Vallecano		Levante v Valencia	
Osasuna 4 - 0 Levante		Mallorca v Granada	
Real Madrid 5 - 1 Deportivo		Ath Club v Osasuna	
Espanyol 0 - 1 Atlético Madrid		Barcelona v R Madrid	
Getafe 1 - 0 Mallorca		Atlético Madrid v Málaga	

One To Watch This Weekend...
Well, if you can somehow get a stream or a last minute flight to Spain, it doesn't get bigger than this, as the El Clasico takes centre stage for the second time this season. Juicy stuff!

ditional subscription on top of the base Foxtel fee. If one were to take Andrew Orsatti's advice to heart, then the nearest countries to Australia with La Liga TV coverage are China, Singapore and the Philippines via the Star Sports channel, ironically a joint sports television business venture of Fox and ESPN.

The La Liga TV coverage issue in the USA and more so Australia and New Zealand where there is no current provider of coverage, can be related back to the dominance of power-houses Real Madrid FC and Barcelona FC. During the last Spanish season, coverage

of the Spanish La Liga peaked during the El Clasico (Real Madrid v Barcelona) with nearly a million viewers, but on average La Liga games not featuring one of these two clubs was down to around 100,000 viewers, leaving ESPN reluctant to enter a bidding war when Al Jazeera decided to enter the US sports television market and up the ante on the cost of the Spanish La Liga Licence.

Meanwhile over the past few seasons, other Spanish clubs have been arguing for a "fairer" more equal distribution of the La Liga TV licence revenue, which is estimated to be a to-

tal of 660 million euro per season, of which Real Madrid and Barcelona collectively receive more than half of this total. "We want a league that is solvent and competitive website. To achieve that, it is fundamental that the gap in budgets and revenues is narrowed and that there is a fairer distribution of TV rights. Only in that way can a more just, more competitive and more attractive league be achieved."

Atletico Madrid's CEO Miguel Angel Gil issued this statement on his club's web-site.



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CROATIA EPL																
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1 Dinamo Zagreb	10	7	2	1	23	10	+13	23	W	L	D	W	W	W		
2 Slaven Koprivnica	10	6	1	3	19	15	+4	19	D	L	L	W	W			
3 Osijek	10	4	5	1	11	5	+6	17	W	W	D	L	D			
4 Split	10	5	1	4	15	11	+4	16	D	L	W	W	L			
5 Hajduk Split	10	4	3	3	16	12	+4	15	L	W	D	L	D			
6 Lokomotiva	10	4	3	3	14	12	+2	15	D	W	L	L	L			
7 Rijeka	10	4	3	3	12	12	+0	15	L	W	W	W	L			
8 Istra 1961	10	3	3	4	8	10	-2	12	L	L	D	D	W			
9 Cibalia	10	3	2	5	11	14	-3	11	W	L	W	W	D			
10 Inter Zaprešić	10	2	4	4	13	14	-1	10	D	W	D	L	W			
11 Zadar	10	1	4	5	10	18	-8	7	W	L	L	D	L			
12 Zagreb	10	1	1	8	4	23	-19	4	L	W	D	L	L			

GERMANY Bundesliga																
	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games		Most recent first					
1 Bayern München	6	6	0	0	19	2	+17	18	W	W	W	W	W	W		
2 Eintracht Fran...	6	5	1	0	16	8	+8	16	W	D	W	W	W	W		
3 Borussia Dortmund	6	3	2	1	16	8	+8	11	W	D	L	W	D			
4 Schalke 04	6	3	2	1	12	7	+5	11	D	W	L	W	W			
5 Hannover 96	6	3	1	2	14	9	+5	10	L	W	L	W	W			
6 Fortuna Düsseldorf	6	2	4	0	6	2	+4	10	D	W	D	D	D			
7 Bayer Leverkusen	6	3	1	2	9	7	+2	10	W	W	D	L	W			
8 Werder Bremen	6	2	1	3	9	10	-1	7	L	W	D	L	W			
9 Hoffenheim	6	2	1	3	10	12	-2	7	D	W	W	L	L			
10 Hamburger SV	6	2	1	3	8	10	-2	7	W	D	W	L	L			
11 Mainz 05	6	2	1	3	6	8	-2	7	W	L	W	L	D			
12 Nürnberg	6	2	1	3	7	11	-4	7	L	L	L	W	D			
13 Borussia M'gla...	6	1	3	2	7	12	-5	6	L	D	D	L	D			
14 Freiburg	6	1	2	3	8	10	-2	5	L	L	D	W	L			
15 Stuttgart	6	1	2	3	5	12	-7	5	W	L	D	D	L			
16 Wolfsburg	6	1	2	3	2	10	-8	5	L	D	D	L	L			
17 Greuther Fürth	6	1	1	4	2	10	-8	4	L	L	D	L	W			
18 Augsburg	6	0	2	4	2	10	-8	2	D	L	L	D	L			

THE CHAMPIONSHIP																
	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games		Most recent first					
1 Cardiff City	9	6	1	2	17	10	+7	19	W	L	W	L	W	W		
2 Leicester City	9	6	0	3	15	9	+6	18	W	W	W	W	L			
3 Brighton & Hov...	9	5	2	2	15	6	+9	17	D	L	W	W	W			
4 Blackpool	9	5	1	3	19	12	+7	16	L	L	D	W	W			
5 Blackburn Rovers	9	4	4	1	16	12	+4	16	D	D	L	W	W			
6 Wolverhampton ...	9	5	1	3	13	9	+4	16	L	W	W	W	W			
7 Crystal Palace	9	5	1	3	14	14	+0	16	W	W	W	D	W			
8 Huddersfield Town	9	4	2	3	14	11	+3	14	L	L	W	W	W			
9 Leeds United	9	4	2	3	17	16	+1	14	D	W	L	L	L			
10 Hull City	9	4	1	4	15	14	+1	13	L	L	L	W	W			
11 Middlesbrough	9	4	1	4	14	16	-2	13	D	L	W	L	W			
12 Watford	9	4	1	4	14	16	-2	13	W	D	L	L	L			
13 Derby County	9	3	3	3	15	13	+2	12	D	L	W	L	W			
14 Bristol City	9	3	2	4	18	17	+1	11	D	L	D	W	L			
15 Burnley	9	3	2	4	18	18	+0	11	D	D	W	L	W			
16 Nottingham Forest	9	2	5	2	10	10	+0	11	D	L	L	D	D			
17 Barnsley	9	3	2	4	12	14	-2	11	L	D	W	L	D			
18 Bolton Wanderers	9	3	2	4	12	14	-2	11	D	L	W	L	W			
19 Birmingham City	9	3	2	4	10	16	-6	11	W	L	L	W	D			
20 Charlton Athletic	9	2	3	4	10	12	-2	9	L	D	W	L	L			
21 Sheffield Wedn...	9	2	2	5	14	20	-6	8	D	L	L	L	L			
22 Millwall	9	2	2	5	12	18	-6	8	D	L	L	L	L			
23 Ipswich Town	9	1	4	4	7	17	-10	7	D	D	L	L	L			
24 Peterborough U...	9	2	0	7	10	17	-7	6	W	W	L	L	L			

Greece Super League																
	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games		Most recent first					
1 Olympiakos Piraeus	5	5	0	0	13	3	+10	15	W	W	W	W	W	W		
2 PAOK	5	4	0	1	10	3	+7	12	W	W	W	L	W			
3 Panionios	5	4	0	1	5	4	+1	12	W	L	W	W	W			
4 Asteras Tripolis	5	3	1	1	7	3	+4	10	D	W	L	W	W			
5 Platania	5	2	2	1	6	4	+2	8	W	L	D	W	D			
6 Atromitos	5	2	2	1	4	2	+2	8	L	D	D	W	W			
7 Veria	5	2	1	2	3	3	+0	7	W	D	D	L	L			
8 OFI	5	1	2	2	4	5	-1	5	L	W	L	D	D			
9 Aris	5	1	2	2	3	6	-3	5	L	W	D	D	L			
10 Xanthi	5	1	2	2	4	7	-3	5	L	D	W	D	W			
11 PAS Giannina	5	1	2	2	3	4	-1	5	W	L	L	D	D			
12 Panathinaikos	5	1	3	1	3	3	+0	4	D	D	L	D	W			
13 Kerkyra	5	1	1	3	3	8	-5	4	W	L	D	L	L			
14 Levadiakos	5	1	1	3	3	6	-3	4	L	W	D	L	L			
15 Panthrakikos	5	1	0	4	2	8	-6	3	L	L	W	L	L			
16 AEK Athens	5	0	1	4	2	6	-4	1	L	L	D	L	L			

...Results...Results...Results....Results

THE CHAMPIONSHIP

Bristol City 1 - 1 Millwall
Huddersfield Town 0 - 2 Leicester City
Brighton & Hov... 1 - 1 Ipswich Town
Cardiff City 2 - 1 Birmingham City
Wolverhampton ... 1 - 2 Crystal Palace
Charlton Athletic 1 - 2 Watford
Burnley 3 - 3 Sheffield Wedn...
Hull City 2 - 3 Blackpool
Barnsley 0 - 2 Peterborough U...
Bolton Wanderers 2 - 2 Leeds United
Middlesbrough 2 - 2 Derby County
Nottingham Forest 0 - 0 Blackburn Rovers

LEAGUE ONE

Notts County 1 - 2 Stevenage
Doncaster Rovers 1 - 3 Preston North End
Southampton United 1 - 3 Tranmere Rovers
Brentford 0 - 0 Shrewsbury Town
Walsall 1 - 2 Leyton Orient
Swindon Town 0 - 1 Colchester United
Coventry City 1 - 1 Milton Keynes Dons
Hartlepool United 1 - 2 Sheffield United
Yeovil Town 1 - 2 Portsmouth
Crewe Alexandra 0 - 2 Oldham Athletic
Bury PSTP Carlisle United
Crawley Town 3 - 1 AFC Bournemouth

LEAGUE TWO

Southend United 0 - 1 Burton
York City 0 - 2 Fleetwood Town
Oxford United 3 - 2 AFC Wimbledon
Rochdale 0 - 0 Bradford City
Northampton Town 1 - 2 ...
Torquay United 4 - 3 Aldershot
Wycombe Wanderers 1 - 1 ...
Morecambe 2 - 0 Chesterfield
Port Vale 1 - 1 Dagenham & Accrington Stanley PSTP ...
Barnet 1 - 2 Exeter City
Bristol Rovers 0 - 1 Cheltenham

SCOTLAND

Aberdeen 2 - 1 Hibernian
Heart of Midlo... 1 - 3 Kilmarnock
Inverness CT 4 - 0 Dundee United
Motherwell 0 - 2 Celtic
St. Mirren 5 - 4 Ross County
Dundee 1 - 3 St. Johnstone

CROATIA

Hajduk Split 3 - 1 Slaven Koprivnica
Cibalia 4 - 1 Rijeka
Dinamo Zagreb 3 - 1 Hajduk Split
Inter Zaprëic 2 - 2 Slaven Koprivnica
Istra 1961 1 - 3 Osijek
Zadar 4 - 0 Zagreb



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FC 11 specialises in the consulting of, development and contextualisation of football specific curriculums for educating players, coaches in all manner of football related roles. The development of courses, camps, seminars, events, player related development and programming, football tours, talent ID opportunities and project management are also many of the services FC 11 provides.

Overall, FC 11 is an organisation of people who love the world game and are interested in providing pathways to all players, from the social to the aspiring professional, to play and achieve their football dream, utilising its global network and contacts throughout the domain of the wider football community.



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5 Days of Non Stop Action Monday 1 to Friday 5 July 2013

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- Live the life of a professional football player
- Train with current EPL Academy Coaches
- Be assessed, tested, trained and advised by expert high performance coaches
- Be Mentored by ex Australian national coaches
- Be identified by international scouts from Europe, England & Japan
- 5 days of high performance training
- 5 days of action packed tournament play in a competitive format

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Enrolments for 2013 are being accepted now – contact FC 11 for further information.



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